



**COUNCIL MEETING OF
THE HUME CITY COUNCIL**

TUESDAY, 11 JUNE 2024

7.00PM

HUME GLOBAL LEARNING CENTRE CRAIGIEBURN

OUR VISION:

Hume City Council will be recognised as a leader in achieving social, environmental and economic outcomes with a common goal of connecting our proud community and celebrating the diversity of Hume.

An audio and video recording of this meeting of the Hume City Council will be published to Council's website within two (2) working days.

HUME CITY COUNCIL

**Notice of a
COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HUME CITY COUNCIL**
to be held on Tuesday, 11 June 2024
at 7.00pm
at the Hume Global Learning Centre Craigieburn

Attendees:	a: Council	Cr Naim Kurt Cr Karen Sherry Cr Jarrod Bell Cr Trevor Dance Cr Joseph Haweil Cr Chris Hollow Cr Jodi Jackson Cr Jack Medcraft Cr Sam Misho Cr Carly Moore Cr Jim Overend	Mayor Deputy Mayor
	b: Officers	Ms Sheena Frost Ms Rachel Dapiran Ms Kristen Cherry Mr Adam McSwain Mr Hector Gaston Ms Fiona Shanks Mr Fadi Srour	Chief Executive Officer Director City Planning and Places Act. Director City Services & Living Director Infrastructure and Assets Director Customer & Strategy Chief People Officer Chief Financial Officer

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Hume City Council would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Country for which the members and Elders of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and their forebears have been custodians for many thousands of years. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, are the Traditional Custodians of this land. Hume City Council would also like to pay its respects to their Elders, past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who may be here today.

2. PRAYER

Hume City's religious diversity strengthens and enriches community life and supports the well-being of the citizens of Hume City. Hume City Council acknowledges the importance of spiritual life and the leadership offered by the Hume Interfaith Network (HIN). In recognition of the religious diversity of residents in Hume City Council has invited the HIN to take responsibility for the opening prayer at Council meetings. This evening's prayer will be led by Ahmed Kucukali, from the Islamic Sciences and Research Academy, on behalf of the HIN.

3. APOLOGIES

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillors' attention is drawn to the provisions of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Council's Governance Rules in relation to the disclosure of conflicts of interests. Councillors are required to disclose any conflict of interest immediately before consideration or discussion of the relevant item. Councillors are then required to leave the Chamber during discussion and not vote on the relevant item.

5. CONGRATULATIONS AND CONDOLENCES

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2024, including Confidential Minutes.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27 May 2024, including Confidential Minutes, be confirmed.

7. SUMMARY OF COUNCIL BRIEFINGS

7.1 Summary of Council Briefing Sessions - 6 & 20 May 2024

1. Council Briefing Session were held on the following dates:

1.1 Monday 6th May 2024

1.2 Monday 20th May 2024

2. **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council notes the Summary of Matters Discussed at the Council Briefing Sessions held on Monday 6th May and Monday 20th May 2024



Summary of matters discussed at a COUNCIL BRIEFING MEETING

MEETING TITLE: COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSION

Date of Meeting: 6 May 2024

Time of Meeting: 6:30 pm

Place of Meeting: In Person and Online via Zoom

The ground or grounds for any matter discussed at this meeting which was considered to be confidential is recorded in this meeting summary.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT	
Cr Naim Kurt (Mayor)	In person
Cr Karen Sherry (Deputy Mayor)	In person
Cr Jarrod Bell	In person
Cr Trevor Dance	Online
Cr Joseph Haweil	In Person
Cr Chris Hollow	In person
Cr Jodi Jackson	Online until 9:07pm
Cr Jack Medcraft	Online
Cr Sam Misho	In person
Cr Carly Moore	Online
Cr Jim Overend	Online until 8.30pm

OFFICERS PRESENT		MATTERS DISCUSSED
Ms Sheena Frost, Chief Executive Officer	In person	
Mr Hector Gaston, Director City Services and Living	Apology	
Mr Carl Muller, Director Customer and Strategy	Apology	
Mr Adam McSwain, Director Infrastructure and Assets	In person	
Ms Rachel Dapiran, Director City Planning and Places	In person	
Mr Fadi Srour, Chief Financial Officer	In person	1.1
Ms Fiona Shanks, Chief People Officer	In person	
Ruth Robles-McColl Manager Strategic Projects & Places	In person	3.7
Sasha Lord Program Director Digital Transformation	In person	3.5
Mr Joel Kimber, Acting Manager Governance	Online	2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4
Ms Astrid Hartono, Manager Infrastructure Delivery	Online	3.8
Mr Nick Varvaris Act. Manager Assets	In person	3.6

MATTERS CONSIDERED:

Order	Description	Names of Councillors who disclosed conflict of interest	Did the Councillor leave the meeting?	Confidential grounds
Items Discussed				
1.1	Budget and Capital Update			
2.1	Review Council Minutes prior to confirmation			
3.1	Summary of Council Briefing Session – 8 and 22 April 2024			
3.2	Councillor Conduct and Expense Report			
3.5	Technology One Contract Update			
3.6	Yirrangana Road to Watsons Road Connection			
3.7	Hume Central Lot E Update			
3.8	Contract No. 30 23 3459 - Construction of Kinder Expansion at Mickleham South and Kalkallo North Community Centres			
Other matters dealt with:				
Items not dealt with:				
2.1	Council Plan 2021-2025 – Update of 2024-25 Actions			
3.3	Audit and Risk Committee Charter Update			
3.4	Report to Council on Audit and Risk Committee Business Undertaken - 1 July to 31 December 2023			

Meeting Closed at: 10:05 pm

RECORDED BY:

Sheena Frost
Chief Executive Officer



Summary of matters discussed at a COUNCIL BRIEFING MEETING
MEETING TITLE: COUNCIL BRIEFING SESSION**Date of Meeting:** 20 May 2024**Time of Meeting:** 6:30 pm**Place of Meeting:** In Person and Online via Zoom

The ground or grounds for any matter discussed at this meeting which was considered to be confidential is recorded in this meeting summary.

COUNCILLORS PRESENT		
Cr Naim Kurt (Mayor)		In person
Cr Karen Sherry (Deputy Mayor)		In person
Cr Jarrod Bell		In person
Cr Trevor Dance		Apology
Cr Joseph Haweil		Online
Cr Chris Hollow		In person
Cr Jodi Jackson		Did not attend (no notification)
Cr Jack Medcraft		In person
Cr Sam Misho		Apology
Cr Carly Moore		Online
Cr Jim Overend		In person
OFFICERS PRESENT		MATTERS DISCUSSED
Ms Sheena Frost, Chief Executive Officer	In person	
Ms Kristen Cherry Act. Director City Services and Living	In person	3.5, 3.6, 3.7
Mr Hector Gaston, Director Customer and Strategy	In person	
Mr Adam McSwain, Director Infrastructure and Assets	In person	
Ms Rachel Dapiran, Director City Planning and Places	In person	1.1
Mr Fadi Srour, Chief Financial Officer	In person	3.1, 3.3
Ms Fiona Shanks, Chief People Officer	Apology	
Mr Robert Costa Manager Finance	In person	3.3
Ms Hazel Finnie, Acting Manager City Lifestyle	In person	
Mr Joel Kimber, Acting Manager Governance	Online	2.1, 3.4
Mr Savva Giannikos, Interim Manager Active Living	Online	

MATTERS CONSIDERED:

Order	Description	Names of Councillors who disclosed conflict of interest	Did the Councillor leave the meeting?	Confidential grounds
Items Discussed				
1.1	Report back on Economic Development Service Review			
2.1	Review Council Minutes prior to confirmation			
3.1	Proposed Annual Budget 2024/25 and proposed updated Council Plan 2021-2025 (updated 2024/25)			
3.2	Council Plan 2021-2025 (2023-24 Actions) Third Quarter Progress Report			
3.3	Quarterly Finance Report - March 2024			
3.4	Audit and Risk Committee Charter Update			
3.5	Correspondence received from or sent to Government Ministers or Members of Parliament			
3.6	2024 Arts Grants - Allocations to Grant Categories			
3.7	Event Grants 2023/2024 - Round 1 Recommendations			
3.8	Quarterly Capital Works Report			
3.9	Contract No. 30 24 3490 – Derby Street - Stage 2			
Other matters dealt with:				
	Events at Anzac Park			
	Leases / Licenses			
	Frankston Mayoral letter			
	Activity Centre Roundtable			

	BDS motion			
	Citizenship			
Items not dealt with:				

Meeting Closed at: 8:40 pm

RECORDED BY:

Sheena Frost
Chief Executive Officer

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

9. OFFICER'S REPORTS

The Mayor will ask the Councillors and gallery at the commencement of this section, which reports they wish to speak to. These reports will then be discussed in the order they appear on the notice paper.

<u>Item No</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
9.1	Draft Aitken Creek Master Plan.....	11
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9.3	Response to Petition P JL307 regarding establishment of LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee.....	49
9.4	Street and Reserve Tree Policy	53

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

10.1	NOM24/19 - Cr Naim Kurt (deferred from 15 April 2024 meeting).....	67
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11. ITEMS TO BE TABLED

12. URGENT BUSINESS

13. DELEGATES REPORTS

14. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The Meeting may be closed to members of the public to consider confidential items.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council close the meeting to the public pursuant to section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020* to consider the following items:

14.1 Request for Financial Incentive - Sunny Queen

Item 14.1 is confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(e) of the Local Government Act 2020 because it is legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies.

The specified grounds apply as the report contains information relating to a proposed new development.

14.2 Contract – Recyclables Kerbside Collection Service: Variation

Item 14.2 is confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the Local Government Act 2020 because it is private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The specified grounds apply because this report contains contractual matters.

14.3 Contract - Geach Street, Dallas - Road Reconstruction

Item 14.3 is confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the Local Government Act 2020 because it is private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The specified grounds apply because this report contains contractual matters.

14.4 Contract - Leo Dineen Reserve Pavilion (Fitout)

Item 14.4 is confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the Local Government Act 2020 because it is private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The specified grounds apply because this report contains contractual matters.

14.5 Contract - Energy Efficient Street Lighting Hardware and Installation Services (MAV Contract)

Item 14.5 is confidential in accordance with Section 3(1)(g(ii)) of the Local Government Act 2020 because it is private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage.

The specified grounds apply because the report contains contractual matters.

15. CLOSURE OF MEETING

SHEENA FROST
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5/06/2024

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REPORT NO:	9.1
REPORT TITLE:	Draft Aitken Creek Master Plan
SOURCE:	Nicole Wilson, Principal Open Space & Recreation Planner Monique Perry, Coordinator Open Space Strategic Planning Kelly Yardley, Senior Open Space and Recreation Planner
DIVISION:	City Planning & Places
FILE NO:	HCC22/573
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	2.2: Design and maintain our City with accessible spaces and a strong sense of place
ATTACHMENTS:	1. <i>Draft Aitken Creek Master Plan - June 2024</i> 2. <i>Gender Impact Assessment - Aitken Creek Master Plan</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 Developing the Aitken Creek Master Plan (the Master Plan) is a project identified in the *Hume City Council Plan 2021-2025*.
- 1.2 The Aitken Creek Master Plan has been prepared to provide strategic direction for future development and improvement works along the Aitken Creek corridor to support community recreation, balanced with enhancing and protecting ecological and Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- 1.3 Council undertook community and stakeholder engagement to inform the Master Plan in late 2023.
- 1.4 The Master Plan has considered all feedback received and aims to find a balance between respecting and protecting cultural and environmental sensitivities of the parklands, with recreational uses. It proposes a range of improvement projects to seek funding for and implement over time.
- 1.5 Following community consultation on the draft masterplan and making any subsequent changes to the Master Plan Council will receive a further report to consider endorsement of the final Aitken Creek Master Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 **That the draft Aitken Creek Master Plan be approved for consultation with the community.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

- 3.1 The development of the Master Plan considers Council’s obligations in relation to the overarching principles of Section 9.2 of *The Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)* specifically:
 - 3.1.1 Priority to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.
 - 3.1.2 The economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

- 3.1.3 The municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.
- 3.1.4 Collaboration with government and statutory bodies is to be sought.
- 3.1.5 Regional, state and national plans and policies are to be considered in strategic planning and decision making.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 There is currently no budget allocation for the proposed works. Following the future endorsement of the final Aitken Creek Master Plan, budget allocation will be sought through the Council annual budget process.
- 4.2 Budget allocation will be sought in accordance with the proposed actions from the Master Plan. These will be planned and costed in accordance with the Project Management Framework as it is noted that the current costs are indicative only and are likely to vary in the future.
- 4.3 Indicative costs at current rates are included in the implementation table in section six of the Draft Master Plan (Attachment 1)
- 4.4 The total indicative cost for priority projects at current rates is in the range of \$6,819,500 to \$7,501,450.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

- 5.1 The Master Plan includes environmental objectives and proposed actions to:
 - 5.1.1 Protect and enhance the ecological and cultural heritage values of the parklands, and to improve community awareness and appreciation of those values.
 - 5.1.2 Enhance waterway health in partnership with Melbourne Water.
 - 5.1.3 Improve connections to residential areas, community facilities and public transport.
 - 5.1.4 Upgrade pathways to support active transport, recreation, and appreciation of nature.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

- 6.1 Craigieburn has significant urban heat challenges and very low levels of urban forest canopy cover (around 2%). However, the Aitken Creek Parklands has approximately 20% tree canopy cover and provides a significant proportion of the area’s urban forest, which the Master Plan aims to protect and enhance.
- 6.2 The Master Plan includes an Integrated Water Management Opportunities Plan, which has identified a number of water harvesting projects for further investigation.

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

- 7.1 The Master Plan supports the self-determination priorities of the Traditional Owners of the land, as represented by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC). It supports Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people to care for their Country.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

- 7.2 Access to a diverse range of open spaces makes a significant contribution to community health and wellbeing outcomes and creates environments that support social connections.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

- 8.1 Community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken in November-December 2023 to inform the development of the Draft Master Plan.
 - 8.1.1 It is estimated that 100 residents participated in the engagement activities online and at in person sessions.
 - 8.1.2 Meetings were held with Melbourne Water and the Craigieburn Sporting Club.
- 8.2 Some key themes emerged from community feedback:
 - 8.2.1 Paths and connectivity – more paths and connections, widening narrow paths, improved bridge and road crossings, access to the train station and across Aitken Boulevard.
 - 8.2.2 Wayfinding signage was another frequently mentioned item, as well as signage more broadly, such as distance markers, information about flora and fauna and other places of interest within the parklands.
 - 8.2.3 Safety was raised in various contexts: flooding, lighting, maintenance of long grass and rubbish, and general surveillance.
- 8.3 A meeting on Country with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) was held in April 2024 to better understand the values of the Aitken Creek Parklands to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and to ensure this is reflected and respected in the master plan.
- 8.4 It is proposed to take the draft Master Plan to the community in June 2024, prior to its final adoption by Council.

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 Aitken Creek Parklands is one of Hume's valued waterway corridors providing an important green artery through Craigieburn and connecting with Merri Creek.
 - 9.1.1 This Master Plan focuses on the eastern section of the parklands from Aitken Boulevard to Merri Creek and covers an area of approximately 90 hectares.
 - 9.1.2 This section of the parklands mostly presents as a narrow-incised corridor bounded by the back of residential properties, and is dissected by Aitken Boulevard, Bridgewater Road, Hothlyn Drive, the Craigieburn Railway line, and Hume Highway.
 - 9.1.3 While the Master Plan does not propose any changes to the playing areas of the Craigieburn Golf Course, there are actions related to the public shared path that travels through the Golf Course. It is for this reason that the Golf Course has been included in the Master Plan.
 - 9.1.4 To the east of the rail line a short section of Aiken Creek is bounded by industrial properties and is mostly inaccessible, as is the confluence with Merri Creek due to its proximity to the Hume Highway.
- 9.2 Aitken Creek Parklands are located on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.
 - 9.2.1 Opportunities to invite WWCHAC to participate in several projects are identified in the implementation plan, including a Cultural Values Study as a high priority.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

9.3 Key issues and opportunities in the Master Plan are identified below:

9.3.1 Improve the path network throughout the parklands, including:

- (a) Wider paths, and more path connections. Many of the existing paths are identified to be upgraded and extended over time.
- (b) Wayfinding signage, maps and other information so that navigating the parklands is easier, safer and more enjoyable.
- (c) Safe and more direct pedestrian access across Aitken Boulevard prior to the road duplication project
- (d) Replacement of low bridges to ensure access across the creek is possible after most rain events.
- (e) Access to Craigieburn Train Station and lighting to support commuter use in the evenings and early mornings.

9.3.2 Managing safe community access to the golf course

- (a) The Craigieburn Sporting Club is supportive of the community accessing the shared paths, opportunities to engage with nature, such as bird watching, and improving pedestrian access to their facilities, but have raised concerns about doing this being done safely whilst the golf course is operating. Several actions have been identified to improve safety and accessibility.

9.3.3 Waterway management and flooding

- (a) Melbourne Water is the authority responsible for the creek, but the master plan considers opportunities for further partnerships to deliver improved waterway and water quality management outcomes.
- (b) Currently the main concerns around flooding are the impacts on numerous low bridge crossings which become inaccessible until the water recedes. The master plan proposes the replacement and redesign of several bridges, as well as consideration of alternate routes and advisory signage.
- (c) Any new assets adjacent to or over the creek, such as new bridges will require Melbourne Water approval and be built above predicted flood levels.

9.3.4 Connection to confluence with Merri Creek and the marram baba Merri Creek Parklands

- (a) Whilst an aspiration of the master plan is to provide a connection to the Merri Creek and beyond, the area east of the Craigieburn Railway line is heavily constrained by significant rail, road and drainage infrastructure. The confluence is also a special place for Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People.
- (b) Should major infrastructure projects be scheduled by the State or Federal Governments, then further investigations could be considered by Council.

9.3.5 Playspaces, exercise equipment and toilets

- (a) Due to the cultural and environmental sensitivities of the parklands and the proximity to the creek in the mostly narrow corridor, additional playspaces, exercise equipment and/or toilets are not proposed within the creek corridor.
- (b) There are existing playspaces at Leveque Loop, near the Aitken Boulevard end of the parklands, and at Craigieburn Gardens.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

- (c) Exercise equipment is currently located at Craigieburn Gardens and on the west side of Aitken Boulevard.
- (d) Public toilets are currently located at Craigieburn Gardens and at the Craigieburn Golf Course.
- (e) These playspaces and exercise equipment will be replaced when identified as part of future renewal and upgrade programs.
- (f) Wayfinding signage, path upgrades and improved road and creek crossings will provide better access to these existing facilities.

9.3.6 Proposed Actions

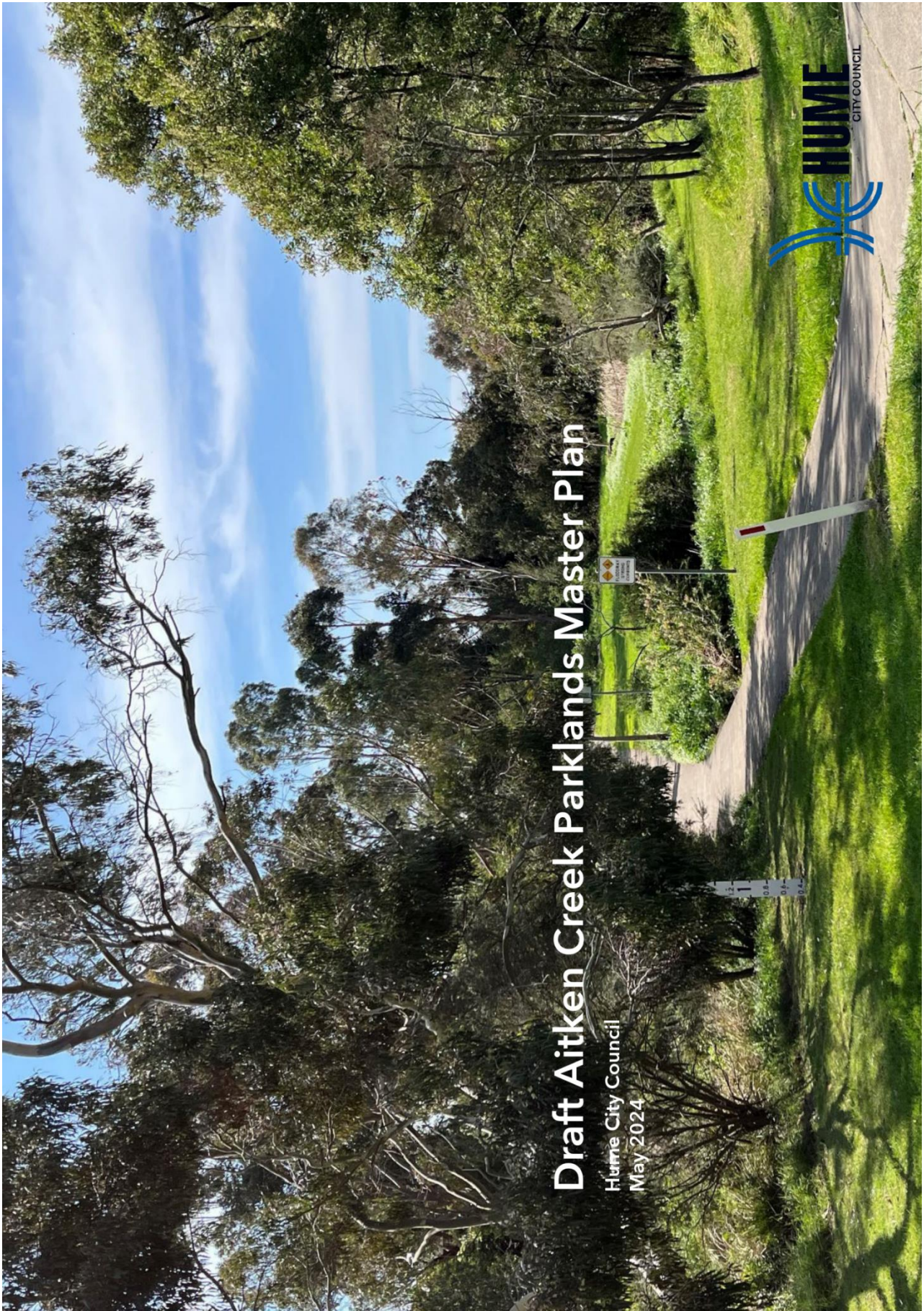
- (a) The draft Master Plan proposes works over several years, including the staged upgrading of paths, replacement of bridges and improvements to signage and vegetation.
- (b) Further investigations such as Cultural Heritage Management Plans or Permits, biodiversity and engineering assessments will be required for many of the projects identified in the implementation plan.
- (c) Some of the work will be much longer-term, such as further investigating access from the Craigieburn Railway line to the Merri Creek.

10. CONCLUSION:

- 10.1 The Aitken Creek Master Plan provides the strategic direction to guide the future development and improvement of the Aitken Creek Parklands from Aitken Boulevard to the Merri Creek for the long term.
- 10.2 Council support for further engagement will ensure the community is provided with the opportunity to comment on the draft Master Plan and for feedback to be considered in the Final Master Plan. The Final Master Plan will then be presented to Council for endorsement at the earliest opportunity.

REPORT NO: 9.1 (cont.)

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Hume City Council recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage within the municipality and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, which includes the existing family members of the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan, as the Traditional Custodians of this land. Council embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander living cultures as a vital part of Australia’s identity and recognises, celebrates and pays respect to Elders past, present and future.



This report has been prepared by Mosaic Insights Pty Ltd for Hume City Council under the contract titled 'Aitken Creek Master Plan'.

Authors: Jayne Mooney, Amala Mathew, Matthew Selinske, Matt Bolton
Review: Matt Bolton
Approved: Matt Bolton

Version: 2 - draft

Date issued: 4 March, 2024

Issued to: Nicole Wilson, Hume City Council

Citation: Mosaic Insights, 2024, 'Aitken Creek Master Plan, report prepared by Mosaic Insights Pty Ltd for Hume City Council'.



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1 Introduction

Aitken Creek Parklands is one of Hume’s valued waterway corridors providing an important green artery through Craigieburn and connecting with Merri Creek. Aitken Creek Parklands are located on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people.

1.1 Project scope

The Aitken Creek Master Plan has been prepared to provide strategic direction for future development and improvement works along the Aitken Creek corridor that support community recreation, balanced with enhancing and protecting ecological and Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

1.2 Project objectives

The objectives of the Master Plan include to:

- Protect and enhance the ecological and cultural heritage values of the creek and improve community awareness and appreciation of those values
- Identify and address the needs and priorities of stakeholders and the community
- Maximise recreational opportunities providing a clear and holistic strategic direction for the upgrade and renewal of recreational infrastructure
- Reduce potential for antisocial behaviour using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles
- Provide innovative accessibility improvements using relevant Australian Standards and Universal Design Principles
- Improve safety and functionality across the existing path network including at existing creek and road crossings
- Improve connection to precincts and facilities including schools and activity centres, as well as to the adjoining local open space network and habitat corridors
- Consider the location and suitability of amenities, such as play spaces, picnic facilities, signage, seating, drinking fountains and shelters to allow local to connect and socialise
- Improve climate resilience, tree canopy cover and urban biodiversity
- Provide a clear and transparent program of works and priorities for Council to seek internal and external funding to deliver the Master Plan vision.

1.3 Study area

The Aitken Creek corridor from Aitken Boulevard to the confluence with Merri Creek is the central open space spine of a well-established area of Craigieburn. The study area is part of the traditional Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as represented by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC). This Master plan focusses on the eastern reach of the Aitken Creek that is most accessible to the public, and further upstream the creek plays an important conservation role.

The study area covers approximately 90 hectares and is located 24 kilometres northwest of the Melbourne CBD. The linear reserve traverses the Craigieburn Golf Course and links numerous smaller parks and reserves to Craigieburn Gardens. Access to the creek and reserve is restricted by rear fences in the residential areas with narrow and often steep cut-throughs from the adjoining road network.

Aitken Creek Master Plan – Draft

The study area is south of Craigieburn Road and interfaces with local and arterial roads, the Hume Highway and Craigieburn Railway Line. The creek corridor north of Craigieburn Road is dealt with as part of the future Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) process.

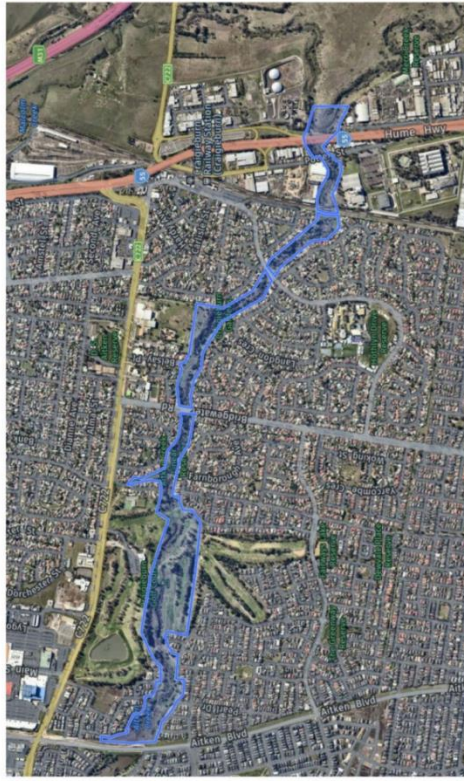


Figure 1. Map of study area

1.4 Process for preparing the Master Plan

The Master Plan is based on a strategic review of current initiatives as well as existing conditions of Aitken Creek to harness opportunities and address constraints. Engagement has provided clear understanding of the needs and priorities of the community and key stakeholders and informed development of the Master Plan.



Figure 2. Process for preparing the Master Plan

2 Strategic context

The following key state and local government policies and strategies have informed the development of the Master Plan.



Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Draft Northern Metro Land Use Framework Plan Summary

The Draft Northern Metro Land Use Framework Plan is a 30-year strategy for action across seven local government areas - Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and part of Mitchell.

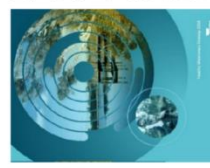
The Aitken Creek Master Plan supports the Framework’s objectives to foster connected, sustainable, environmentally resilient, and healthy communities.



marrambaba Merri Creek Regional Parklands Future Directions Plan (DEECA)

The marrambaba Merri Creek Regional Parklands Future Directions Plan 2023 sets out a vision, principles and strategic directions for progressive parklands establishment, protection and management to be achieved by 2050.

The Plan has been developed with the guidance of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and reflects their “continued custodianship and culture, the volcanic landscape and diverse plants and animals within it, the flow of Merri Creek and confluences with Kaikallo Creek, Aitken Creek, Malcolm Creek and Curly Sedge Creek. The Plan seeks future opportunities to connect to Aitken Creek and values the escarpment strubland at the confluence.



Melbourne Water Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-2028

The Healthy Waterways sets a long-term vision for managing the health of rivers, wetlands and estuaries in the Port Phillip and Westport region, in order to protect and improve their value to the community.

The Strategy is intended for State Government, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, local government, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria, the Port Phillip and Westport Catchment Management Authority, other regional agencies and authorities and management partners, developers, Traditional Owners, and landholders or community groups involved in waterway management or activities that may affect waterway condition.

The Strategy’s co-designed catchment program for the Yarra Catchment identified nine key values as a representative measure of waterway values, which includes amenity, community connection, recreation, birds, fish, frogs, macroinvertebrates, playpays and vegetation. These waterway values have been explored through the Master Plan.

Upper Merri Catchment

Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Hume City Council, City of Whittlesea, Mitchell Shire Council, Yarra Valley Water, Melbourne Water and the Victorian Planning Authority are working together to develop an integrated water management plan for the Upper Merri Creek sub-catchment.

This project is piloting a new partnership approach to managing water at the catchment level. This approach supports all agencies to work together to address challenges and create positive outcomes for the local community and the environment in the Upper Merri Creek sub-catchment.



Northern Trails Strategy (2022)

Aitken Creek is referenced in Northern Trails 2022, a regional strategy developed as a collaboration between Moreland, Darebin, Banyule, Hume, Whittlesea and Nillumbik Councils in Melbourne’s north. The strategy has been prepared to establish a framework for the planning and development of regional trails in Northern Melbourne for the next 10 years and beyond.

The strategy identifies existing and potential regional trails including Aitken Boulevard Shared Trail and Aitken Creek Trail.

Hume City Council Open Space Strategy

The Draft Open Space Strategy, endorsed for consultation in April 2024, has been prepared to help plan and maintain open spaces across Hume for current and future generations. The Strategy also prioritises the important environmental and cultural outcomes of our open spaces.

The Strategy recognises Aitken Creek Parklands as a valued regional open space asset stretching through Craigieburn from Merri Creek and linking to Highlands Lake and beyond.

Other Hume City Council Strategy and policy documents

Aitken Creek is identified across Council document as an important recreation and open space area for people and the environment.

- The **Land and Biodiversity Plan 2023-2030** identifies the importance of creek corridors for supporting landscape connectivity and providing habitat for a diversity of wildlife species.
- Council’s **Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025** identifies maintaining wetlands, creeks and rivers as essential to support green, interconnected and social environments.
- The **Leisure Strategy 2013-2018** notes that “our creek corridors with narrow, often deep valleys and major state and regional parks and path systems provide important opportunities for the community to access and experience the natural environment”.
- The **Walking and Cycling Strategy 2010-2015** mentions Aitken Creek path as a Neighbourhood path that provide residents with access through their neighbourhood and to facilities such as schools, local shops and parks, which also typically link into the district network of paths.
- The **Hume Bicycle Network Plan 2015** included Aitken Creek Trail in its target project list.

3 Existing conditions

Understanding existing conditions of the study area ensures that any potential issues or challenges are identified, and opportunities harnessed. The study area includes Aitken Creek waterway and surrounding parkland, which includes open spaces, concreted shared use pathways and bridges, and sub-surface services. Portions of Aitken Creek have been modified, with channelisation, land and road bridges, and parts of the parkland/golf course constructed over the waterway. Whilst part of the creek traverses an industrial area, from the railway line to the Craigieburn Golf Course it is bounded by significant residential areas, typically 1980s-1990s curvilinear development with numerous cul-de-sacs. Study area investigations including feature surveys, Cultural Heritage Management Plans, land ownership analysis and ecological assessments have previously been undertaken and are detailed in the sections below.

3.1 Land ownership and management

Table 1 includes a list of the properties in the study area and the landowner of each property. The majority of the study area is owned by Hume City Council with just two properties owned by Melbourne Water.

Table 1. Study area property details

Property address	Landowner	Approximate area (ha)
400 Hume Highway	Hume City Council	Whole property, not included in the study area
34 Potter Street	Hume City Council	0.51
23 Potter Street	Melbourne Water	1.21
25 Potter Street	Melbourne Water	0.66
19-25 Bridgewater Road (survey completed from railway line to Hothlym Drive in 2021)	Hume City Council	8.35
Rear 31 Kirkbride Way	Hume City Council	0.26
34A Bainbridge Close	Hume City Council	0.02
59-151 Craigieburn Road (Craigieburn Gardens and Craigieburn Sports Stadium precinct.)	Hume City Council	Craigieburn Gardens: 11ha Sports Stadium precinct: 64 ha
27 Belay Place	Hume City Council	0.14
15-17 Bridgewater Road	Hume City Council	0.41
26A Bridgewater Road	Hume City Council	2.73
9-11 Chimcock Court	Hume City Council	0.21
27A Chimcock Court	Hume City Council	0.65
54 Axminster Drive	Hume City Council	0.09
40A Axminster Drive	Hume City Council	0.04
20-24 Moonah Place	Hume City Council	2.97
79-87 Baiyang Way	Hume City Council	2.44
6-8 Leveque Loop	Hume City Council	2.04
361 Craigieburn Road	Hume City Council	66.4
235-359 Craigieburn Road (Craigieburn Golf Course)	Hume City Council	Whole property not included in the study area

The study area includes land zoned Comprehensive Development Zone (Schedule 1) (CDZ), Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) associated with Craigieburn Public Golf Course, Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ), General Residential Zone 1 (GRZ1), Public Use Zone 6 - Local Government (PUZ6), Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ).

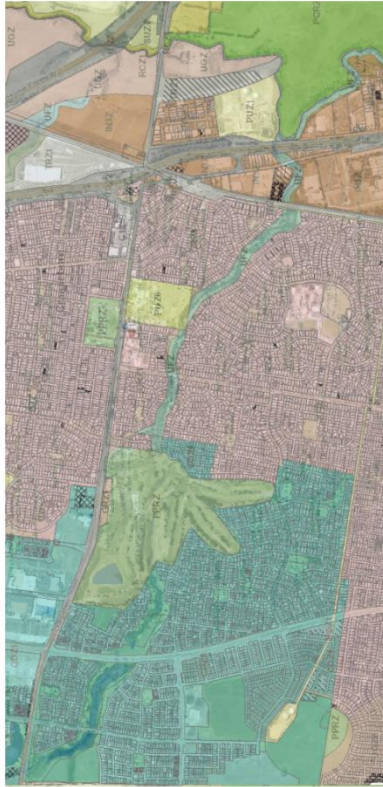


Figure 3. Planning scheme zones and ownership

Considerations for the Master Plan:

- Explore opportunities for the Council to collaborate with Melbourne Water in enhancing the management boundaries of the along the creek.

3.2 Cultural heritage

The Traditional Owners of the land where the study area is located are the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people represented by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP).

Aitken Creek and Craigieburn have a rich indigenous life, not to mention a significant history in the initial European contact. The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung relied on the waterways for fishing, transport and food and Aitken Creeks connection to the marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands is a key element of the cultural landscape.

The lands and water of Aitken Creek connect directly to the marram baba Merri Creek Regional Parklands. The name marram baba means 'body of mother' in the Woi-wurrung language and the diverse landscape features of Merri Creek, Aitken Creek and Malcom Creek and Kalkallo Creek including floodplains, billabongs, basalt plains, stony rises, gorges, historic trees, grasslands and grassy eucalypt woodlands represent ancestral and present-day Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country Values.

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community find spiritual meaning within Country that embodies the living spaces of their ancestors and which provides a conceptual link to the traditional Country of their people and the entire Aitken Creek corridor is an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity with a range of registered Aboriginal site and places within, or in proximity to, the study area.

Ongoing Council partnership with WWCHAC is a key part of managing Aitken Creek and future implementation of masterplan actions will be guided by ongoing consultation with them.



Figure 4. Areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity

Considerations for the Master Plan:

- The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung relied on the waterways for food, transport and cultural activities and the entire Aitken Creek masterplan area is culturally significant and WWCHAC must be consulted on any works which require ground disturbance through the corridor.
- Council support WWCHAC to develop a cultural values plan for Aitken Creek and investigate interpretation and naming opportunities to increase public awareness of these values and places where appropriate.
- Council will liaise closely with WWCHAC to identify, protect and avoid/minimise impact on culturally significant areas along Aitken Creek during future low bridge and path replacement works.
- Council support direct management of culturally sensitive stony rises by WWCHAC in partnership with the Wurundjeri Narrap Ranger Team.
- The final design approach to low bridge, path replacement and any other ground disturbing works will be guided by further cultural heritage assessment and cultural heritage management plans developed in close consultation with WWCHAC as required under the Aboriginal Heritage Act and Regulations.

3.3 Geology and geomorphology

The area is characterised by Newer Volcanic Group – basalt flows (Neo) and Craigieburn Gardens is identified as Melbourne Formation (Sxm). The creek corridor is incised and has been modified in some sections by filling while natural rock escarpments remain visible in other areas and stony rises that area are culturally significant for the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people



Photo 1. Trail leading to Craigieburn Gardens with rocky outcrops

Considerations for the Master Plan:

- Management of natural rock escarpments in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung
- Opportunities to upgrade culverts/bridge and reduce piped sections along the creek to improve flows and habitat connection in partnership with Melbourne Water.

3.4 Drainage and water quality

Aitken Creek is a small tributary of Merri Creek, flowing south-east from Mickleham through rural land and newly developing residential land before joining Merri Creek just west of the Hume Highway (MCMC management plan 2005).

The Aitken Creek corridor is covered by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and a small portion of the eastern part of the study area is covered by the Floodway Overlay. The Aitken Creek corridor has areas of both natural and constructed watercourse.

Considerations for the Master Plan

- Low bridges/ford crossings subject to flooding
- Identifying Growing Grass Frog (GGF) values places an increased emphasis on water quality outcomes
- Older drainage system does not meet best practice for pretreatment of stormwater prior to discharge to the creek
- Large scale application of fertiliser, herbicide and pesticides at the golf course may risk water quality in the creek

3.5 Underground services

There are existing underground sewerage and water assets through the study area. There are no telecommunications or electricity networks present in the open space.

Considerations for the Master Plan:

- Works near road reserve and rail line must consider proximity to major underground services

3.6 Flora and fauna

A Flora and Fauna Assessment undertaken for the Aitken Creek Trail project in February 2021 indicated that the study area is home to remnant species of flora and fauna.

The Aitken Creek has been extensively modified during historical development however remnant Pre 1750 vegetation communities of the Victorian Volcanic Plain remain and have been supplemented by more recent revegetation. Indigenous vegetation communities include:

- 175 Grassy Woodland (Critically Endangered) and 55-61 Red Gum Woodland
- 125 Plains Grassland and 68 Creeklime Tussock Grassland
- 649 Stony Knoll and 895 Escarpment Shrublands
- Seasonal herbaceous wetland and Aquatic Herbifields

These remnants provide habitat for a range of rare and threatened species including Amethyst Hairstreak Butterfly (Amberfield Grasslands) and Growing Grass Frog (confluence with Merri Creek). Other bird species including Purple Crowned Lorikeets, Spiny Cheeked Honeyeaters, Eastern Rosella, White necked Heron and White-browed Scrubwren also rely on indigenous vegetation along the corridor. Key environmental objectives for Aitken Creek include:

- Protect and consolidate remnant indigenous vegetation patches with planted indigenous buffer zones and linking revegetation.
- Extend indigenous overstorey tree planting and reduce mown grass in support of improved urban habitat values and mitigate urban heat impacts.
- Support Melbourne Water to continue woody and invasive weed control works along the creek bed and banks.
- Develop interpretive signage to increase community awareness of environmental values and threats along the corridor.



Photo 2. The Aitken Creek watercourse



Figure 5. Planning scheme floodway and land subject to inundation overlays



Figure 6. Planning scheme environmental overlays

Considerations for the Master Plan

- Growing Grass Frog recorded in this section of Aitken Creek and in Merri Creek. Piped sections of Aitken Creek reduce habitat connectivity
- Mature pine trees are non-indigenous/environmental weeds. Existing pine trees provide a substantial contribution to landscape character and canopy cover on and around the golf course

3.7 Access

The majority of the path and bridge crossing were developed as part of residential development in the 1990s and the narrow open space corridor features a number of low bridges and ford crossings with steeply graded paths that do not meet contemporary path design widths, flood safety and accessible grade standards. There is currently no accessible path link from the south side of the creek to Craigieburn Gardens and the new sports stadium and shopping centre. A program of staged replacement of low bridges and upgrade of narrow and steep paths will be required to meet contemporary standards.

Current Council plans to extend the shared path from Hothlynn Drive to the Craigieburn Railway Station will increase use of the shared path but there is no designated shared trail crossing point on Aitken Boulevard and the Hume Highway and Craigieburn Railway Line restrict community access through to Merri Creek and Craigieburn Grasslands. Extending the linear trail and other amenity improvements will also provide opportunities for new seating areas and visitor nodes to increase community connection and use of the open space corridor.

Strategic priorities are supported by,

- Aitken Creek is referenced in Northern Trails 2022 (a strategy developed in partnership by six councils in Melbourne's north), as well as Hume City Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy and Bicycle Network Plan.
- An initial project to extend the shared path from Hothlynn Drive to the Craigieburn Railway Station is currently in the detailed investigation stage and funded by the Walking and Cycling Strategy budget.
- Opportunity to connect the Aitken Creek Trail with the Aitken Boulevard Trail and the Amaroo Pipe Track identified in the Northern Trails Strategy.



Photo 4. Shared path and access point near Bridgewater Road



Photo 5. Flooding of low bridges is a regular occurrence after rainfall

Considerations for the Master Plan

- Gaps in the existing shared path network
- Safety issues on the existing shared path – path less than 2m wide, path in poor condition, path grade exceeds gradient/curvature standards, other risks – proximity of vegetation/fencing/other obstructions
- Currently no area is secure from illegal vehicle access due to lack of secure fencing and gates
- Pedestrian and cyclist safety at major road crossings
- Accessibility issues due to steep grades and when bridges are flooded
- Safety issues on the path through the golf course in several locations

3.8 Recreation facilities

Existing recreational facilities in the study area include:

- Playgrounds (Craigieburn Gardens adjoining the study area); Leveque Loop at the western end of the study area
- Picnic facilities and furniture: some park benches next to paths, picnic tables, bins, signage
- Public toilets: toilet facilities provided in Craigieburn Gardens adjoining the study area
- Facilities: BMX track and Craigieburn Sports Stadium adjoining the study area in Craigieburn Gardens,
- Dog off leash areas: one facility located at Aitken Creek between Hothlyn Drive and the railway at the eastern end of the study area, there is also an off-leash area located in Craigieburn Gardens adjoining the study area.

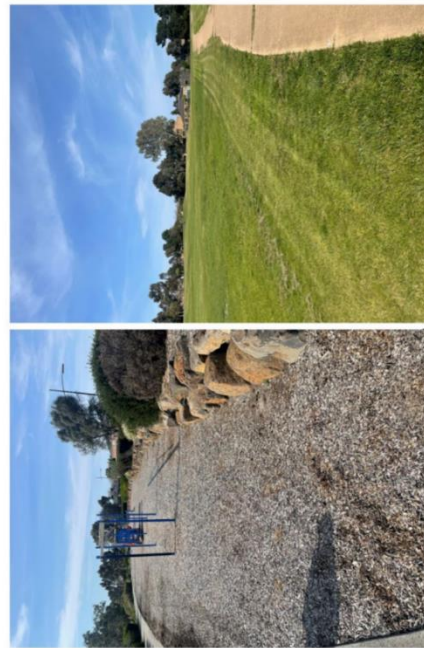


Photo 5. Recreational infrastructure in study area
Aitken Creek Master Plan – Draft



Photo 6. Recreational infrastructure in study area

Considerations for the Master Plan

- Wayfinding and other signage are inconsistent and/or missing along the open space corridor
- Existing play facilities are nearing the end of the useable life cycle (20 years) – Leveque Loop is 12 years old
- Lack of facilities along the creek including drinking fountains, seating, and picnic facilities
- Identify areas to support community gathering or event (via shelter, seating, toilets, water access, and power).
- Replace Exercise equipment at Craigieburn Gardens within 5 years

3.9 Craigieburn Sporting Club

The Craigieburn-Willmott Golf Course was established in 1974 and hosts more than 200 members. The local club includes a café/bistro and 18-hole 72 par golf course which provides public access facilities for all ages and abilities and is connected to the Aitken Creek corridor via the existing shared path. Key objectives include:

- Improve public awareness of the golf course playing area and etiquette when using the existing shared path and define areas of restricted public access as required for safety.
- Improve public access to the Craigieburn Sporting Club and areas of open space along the creek which are not part of the golf course playing area.
- Retain the existing pine trees, which are an important part of the course and landscape character, while undertaking new indigenous tree planting to improve habitat values and canopy cover along the creek.
- In partnership with Melbourne Water investigate opportunities to harvest stormwater to improve water quality in the creek, enhance habitat values and reduce reliance on recycled water.

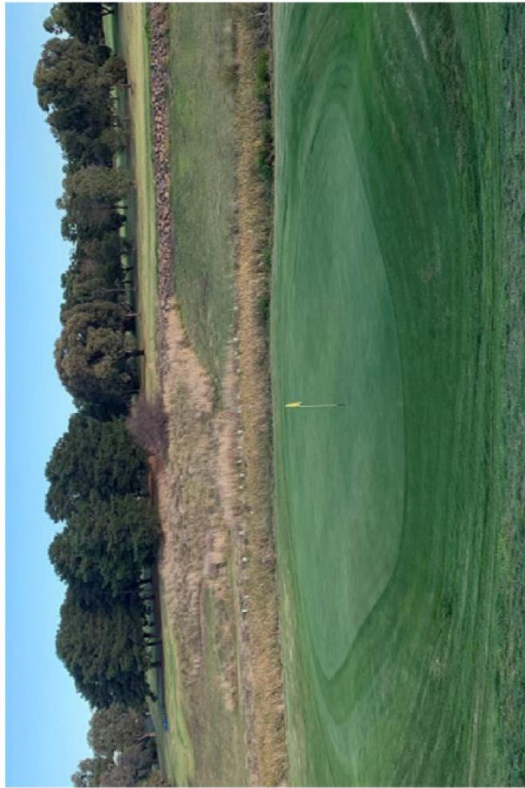


Photo 7. Third hole at Craigieburn Golf Course Image craigieburnsc.com.au/golf-club/

3.10 Amenity

Craigieburn has significant urban heat challenges, with high levels of vulnerability (Hume Urban Heat Vulnerability Analysis, 2018), and extremely low levels of urban forest canopy (around 2%). The Aitken Creek corridor has approximately 20% tree canopy and represents a significant proportion of the area’s forestry.

Figure 8 represents Amenity Need Score of the Aitken Creek Parklands area, which is calculated considering health and socio-economic factors (heat vulnerability score, social disadvantage score, mental health score, physical health score) and equitable distribution factors (access to open space, 2021 population density and growth in population density from 2027 to 2032).

The study area has an amenity needs score of 4, indicating a moderate to high amenity need for interventions that improve community access to high quality open space for health and wellbeing purposes.

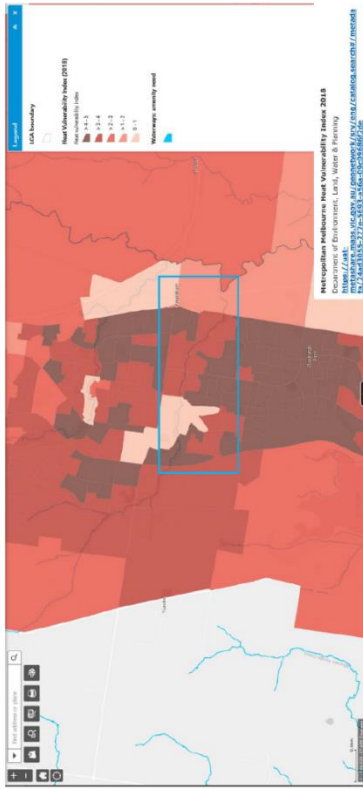


Figure 7. Heat Vulnerability Index

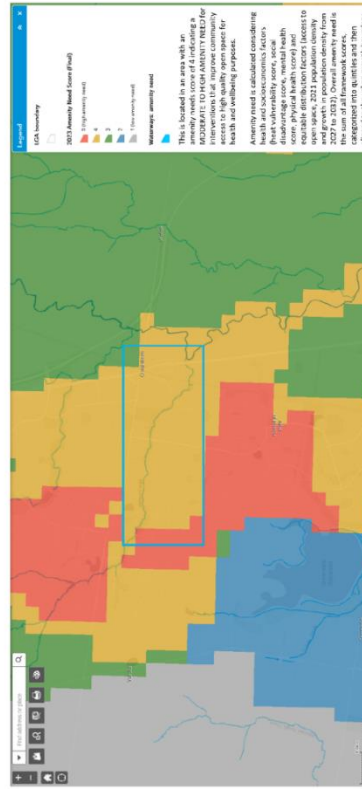


Figure 8. 2023 Amenity Need Score

Considerations for the Master Plan:

- Lack of tree planting along the creek and existing shared path within the golf course
- Large lot sizes and proximity to public transport and services has the potential to increasing development density adjoining the creek

¹ Overall amenity need is the sum of all framework scores, categorised into quintiles and then aligned to the urban growth boundary.

4 Community Engagement

4.1 Community engagement

The first phase of engagement for the Master Plan invited the community to become part of the journey by informing the priorities and considerations for the Master Plan. The purpose of community engagement with the broader community was to discover how people use the area and how they would like to use it into the future. The following community engagement activities were undertaken in November 2023:

- A community pop-up event at Craigieburn Central
 - A guided walk at Aitken Creek
 - A community survey hosted on Hume City Council Have Your Say site, including an interactive map
- The second phase included engagement with organisations such as Melbourne Water and the Craigieburn Sporting Club (December 2023) and meeting with Traditional Owners Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung (April 2024).

4.2 Melbourne Water, Craigieburn Sporting Club meeting

An onsite meeting was held with representatives from Craigieburn Sporting Club, Craigieburn Willmott Golf Club, Hume City Council and Mosaic Insights. The purpose of this meeting was to identify opportunities for improved environmental, habitat and amenity outcomes along Aitken Creek. Meeting discussion focused on:

- Suggested that Melbourne Water should remove sediment from the creek bridge culverts at the 18th hole of the golf course to reduce flood events
- Investigate drainage improvements in areas around the golf course
- Investigate opportunities for sustainable irrigation water alternatives given expected loss of recycled water following Craigieburn Road upgrade
- Support upgrade to the steep unsealed north south path across Aitken Creek to provide improved safety for golfers and maintenance vehicles and to improve public off road accessible shared path links from Aitken Creek through to the Club and Craigieburn Road
- Concerned that the process that led to establishment of the existing Aitken Creek path did not involve consultation with the Sports Club and they are happy to be involved in the Aitken Creek Masterplan process
- Support additional planting and signage to improve definition of golf course playing areas and public access areas along the path



Photo 3. Walking tour and a visit by the Mayor of Hume to the pop-up event

4.3 Meeting with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

The Traditional Owners of the land where the study area is located are the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people represented by the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP). An onsite meeting was held with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Heritage Insights, Hume City Council and Mosaic Insights. Ongoing partnership with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (WWCHAC) is a key part of managing Aitken Creek and future implementation of masterplan actions will be guided by ongoing consultation with them. From this meeting it was established:

- The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung relied on the waterways for food, transport and cultural activities and the entire Aitken Creek masterplan area is culturally significant and WWCHAC must be consulted on any works which require ground disturbance through the corridor.
- Support WWCHAC to develop cultural values plan for Aitken Creek and investigate interpretation and naming opportunities to increase public awareness of these values and places where appropriate.
- Liaise closely with WWCHAC to identify, protect and avoid/minimise impact on culturally significant areas along Aitken Creek during future low bridge and path replacement works.
- Support direct management of culturally sensitive stony rises by WWCHAC in partnership with the Wurundjeri Narrap Ranger Team.

Note the design approach to low bridge, path replacement and any other ground disturbing works will be guided by further cultural heritage assessment and cultural heritage management plans developed in close consultation with WWCHAC as required under the Aboriginal Heritage Act and Regulations.

Categories	Summary of feedback reflected in Masterplan
Pathways and connectivity	Path extensions and more connections, shared use path, connectivity around major roads and barriers, new bridge crossings, improving paths, widening paths to accommodate people on foot and on bikes, enhanced accessibility
Flora and fauna	Signage with flora and fauna information, pest and weed removal, native grassland area, habitat areas, water quality improvements, deterring rubbish dumping in creek
Amenity	Regular maintenance and mowing, grassed lawn areas with flowers, bins needed, rubbish removal, maps and distance markers, signage and more information throughout (flora and fauna), more tree canopy, improved drainage, climbing plants to deter graffiti on bridges, restricting unwanted uses (motor bikes etc)
Safety	Flooding impacting access and use of spaces, improved lighting (solar), cyclist and pedestrian safety improvements (gradient, obstructions, crossings), line-of-sight improvements from overgrown vegetation, lawn and vegetation maintenance for fire and snake hazard, passive surveillance opportunities and activation
Recreation	Park benches and tables, sheltered barbeque areas with seats tables bins toilets, outdoor fitness equipment, zipline, bocce club, soccer nets, AFL posts, cricket nets, mini golf, fishing, playground, dog bag dispensers, drinking fountains, dog off leash area, signage indicating dog on and off leash areas, new golf club facilities
Wetlands	Wetland areas with viewing platforms and signage, address drainage issues

Further details on community engagement are provided in Appendix A: Community engagement findings





OVERALL PLAN - Aitken Boulevard to Merrit Creek
AITKEN CREEK PARKLANDS MASTERPLAN

E1 Collaborate with Melbourne Water to improve the interface to the Aitken Boulevard retarding basin outfall safety and amenity. (H)

E2 Plant Indigenous trees along Aitken Creek in partnership with Melbourne Water (L)

E3 Investigate revegetation opportunities to expand habitat for the Amethyst Hairstreak Butterfly (listed as Endangered) into the golf course and improve habitat links from the existing grasslands to the creek. (M)

E4 Investigate a nutrient sponge and additional indigenous tree planting between the 9th fairway and creek in conjunction with staged pine tree removal to maintain canopy cover and landscape character during transition. (M)

E5 Continue weed control in partnership with Melbourne Water. (H)

E6 Install new out of bounds markers and signage to the south side of the path and establish additional indigenous shade trees adjoining the 17th fairway. (H)

RECREATION

R1 Establish a direct pedestrian/cyclist crossing at Aitken Boulevard with central refuge to link existing shared paths on the south side of the creek (H)

R2 Extend shared path link to Aitken Boulevard on north bank and through to Craigieburn SC (H)

R3 Install directional signage (with map) at Aitken Boulevard add distance markers to the existing shared. (H)

R4 Upgrade Leveque Loop play space to include new equipment, picnic area with shelter and drinking fountain within the same play space area (M)

R5 Realign the shared path to the creek side of the playspace at Leveque Loop (M)

R6 Replace narrow section of shared path west of the golf course at Albatross Close. (M)

R7 Establish new seating area overlooking the creek on the north side of the path adjoining the 17th fairway. (H)

HERITAGE

H1 Support Wurundjeri to identify, protect and maintain sites of cultural significance along Aitken Creek. (H)

H2 Coordinate required cultural heritage management plans (CHMPs) for any ground disturbing works recommended in the master plan (H)

H3 Develop a land management agreement with Wurundjeri Narrap Team for culturally sensitive areas along Aitken Creek. (M)

PLANNING

P1 Encourage rear fronting properties to face onto the creek and reserve to improve passive surveillance and safety in the creek corridor in accordance with the Housing Strategy. (H)

DRAWING KEY

	Concrete shared path >2.5m wide		New picnic area with tables
	Concrete shared path <2.5m wide (to be replaced)		New directional signage
	Proposed 3.0m wide shared path		Public toilets
	Informal path		Parking
	Existing bridge		Existing indigenous vegetation
	New replacement bridge		Potential wetland
	New fencing		Proposed indigenous tree planting



DETAIL PLAN 01- Aitken Boulevard to Craigieburn Golf Course
AITKEN CREEK PARKLANDS MASTERPLAN



ENVIRONMENT

- E3** Investigate revegetation opportunities to expand habitat for the Amethyst Haircreek Butterfly (listed as Endangered) into the golf course and improve habitat links from the existing grasslands to the creek. (M)
- E7** Liaise with Melbourne Water to coordinate weed control along the creek and investigate opportunity to extend the pond in front of the first green to reduce the pipe length and improve habitat values. (L)
- E8** Investigate opportunity to harvest stormwater from Craigieburn Road/Craigieburn Central SC to a new storage dam reducing reliance on Class A recycled water for irrigation. (L)
- E9** Liaise with Melbourne Water to review bank stability and drain outfall water quality improvement opportunities when upgrading the Farnborough Ave bridge while retaining path links Chinook Ct and Clovelly Dr. (L)

RECREATION

- R8** Establish new ball protection fencing to the path at the rear of the 17th green. (H)
- R9** Regrade and resurface the existing cart path over Aitken Creek beside the 18th hole to improve safety for golfers and provide all ability public access to and from the Craigieburn Sporting Club and shared path on Craigieburn Road for pedestrians and cyclists. (M)
- R10** Improve path protection behind the 10th and 1st greens, replace existing old chainmesh fencing and realign and extend the shared path on Axminster Drive to improve access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. (M)
- R11** Replace the existing low bridge crossing at the end of Farnborough Avenue. (H)
- R12** Establish a new path between Farnborough Ave bridge and Perron Ct on the north bank to enable bypass of the low bridge crossing upstream of Bridgewater Road when flooded. (M)
- R13** Establish new picnic tables/seating area on the creek north bank west of Bridgewater Road (M)
- R14** Widen path and improve wayfinding signage at Bridgewater Road crossing (M)

PLANNING

- P1** Encourage rear fronting properties to face onto the creek and reserve to improve passive surveillance and safety in the creek corridor in accordance with the Housing Strategy. (H)

DRAWING KEY

	Concrete shared path >2.5m wide		New picnic area with tables
	Concrete shared path <2.5m wide (to be replaced)		New directional signage
	Proposed 3.0m wide shared path		Public toilets
	Informal path		Parking
	Existing bridge		Existing indigenous vegetation
	New replacement bridge		Potential wetland
	New fencing		Proposed indigenous tree planting



DETAIL PLAN 02 - Craigieburn Golf Course to Bridgewater Road
AITKEN CREEK PARKLANDS MASTERPLAN



ENVIRONMENT

- E10** Review vegetation management along the existing path east of Bridgewater Road to maintain sightlines for safety. (H)
- E11** Undertake additional indigenous revegetation at the southern end of Craigieburn Gardens to expand buffers to the culturally sensitive stony rise (M)
- E12** Undertake additional indigenous shade tree planting to the southern bank along the path (M)
- E13** Undertake additional indigenous shade tree planting to the north bank along the path (M)

RECREATION

- R15** Establish informal walking track on south bank between Bridgewater Road and Falmer Place to extend the walking loop and provide an alternative access if low bridges west of Craigieburn Gardens are flooded (H)
- R16** Upgrade shared path and signage to alert users heading west to potential flooding – allowing access out at Hothlynn Drive and flood bypass access via Langdon Crescent until low bridge is replaced (H)
- R17** Install wayfinding signage to Craigieburn Gardens and existing toilet facilities on Aitken Creek path. Use distance markers and QR codes to improve links to information about the creek. (H)
- R18** Investigate options to improve all ability access to Craigieburn Gardens in consultation with Wurundjeri to determine the preferred approach while minimising impacts on cultural values. (M)
- R19** Upgrade narrow shared path between Penryn Place and Beckington Place to 3.0m wide. (L)
- R20** Install access gate to picnic facilities and BMX track (H)
- R21** Investigate a new picnic area at the southern end of Craigieburn Gardens overlooking the creek. (L)
- R22** Upgrade and replace exercise equipment at Craigieburn Gardens and investigate opportunities for additional fitness stations and informal nature based play and seating areas along the shared path. (M)
- R23** Identify additional areas to support community gatherings and events (via new picnic shelter, seating, toilets, water access, and power) at Craigieburn Gardens. (M)
- R24** Replace the existing low bridge crossing at the end of Beckington Place. (M)

PLANNING

- P1** Encourage rear fronting properties to face onto the creek and reserve to improve passive surveillance and safety in the creek corridor in accordance with the Housing Strategy. (H)

DRAWING KEY

Concrete shared path >2.5m wide	New picnic area with tables
Concrete shared path <2.5m wide (to be replaced)	New directional signage
Proposed 3.0m wide shared path	Public toilets
Informal path	Parking
Existing bridge	Existing Indigenous vegetation
New replacement bridge	Potential wetland
New fencing	Proposed indigenous tree planting



HERITAGE

- H1** Support Wurundjeri to identify, protect and maintain sites of cultural significance along Aitken Creek. (H)
- H2** Coordinate required cultural heritage management plans (CHMPs) for any ground disturbing works recommended in the master plan (H)
- H3** Develop a land management agreement with Wurundjeri Narrap Team for culturally sensitive areas along Aitken Creek. (M)



DETAIL PLAN 03 - Bridgewater Road to Hothlynn Drive
AITKEN CREEK PARKLANDS MASTERPLAN



ENVIRONMENT

- E13 Undertake additional indigenous shade tree planting to the north bank along the path (M)
- E14 Protect large remnant River Red Gums and undertake weed control in the eastern section of the creek. (H)
- E15 Undertake additional indigenous shade tree planting to the south bank west of the railway line (L)
- E6 Continue weed control in partnership with Melbourne Water. (H)

RECREATION

- R25 Extend the Aitken Creek shared path to the railway line and along the Stockton Street road reserve to Craigieburn Station. (H)
- R26 Maintain flood warning signage at existing low ford crossings. Retain for maintenance access only. (H)
- R27 Retain dog off lead on south bank of Aitken Creek between railway and proposed new bridge following shared path replacement. (H)
- R28 Investigate a new pedestrian-cycle bridge providing north south access across the creek and linking a future pipe track shared path to the railway station. (M)
- R29 Extend a new 3.0m wide concrete shared path to the railway link and link to the existing track to Abercarn Avenue. (M)
- R30 Establish a new seating/picnic area overlooking the creek on the south bank (L).
- R31 Investigate new shared path access under the railway line on the south bank and extend access through to Potter Street enabling longer term connection of the Aitken Creek shared path to Merri Creek. (L)
- R32 Path access under or over the Hume Hwy to Merri Creek is currently not feasible due to the steep road embankment. If road culverts need replacing in the future consider opportunities for access via a new pedestrian/cyclist culvert to improve long term opportunities to connect Aitken Creek Parklands to marram baba. (L)

PLANNING

- P1 Encourage rear fronting properties to face onto the creek and reserve to improve passive surveillance and safety in the creek corridor in accordance with the Housing Strategy. (H)
- P2 Monitor bank stability and revegetation in accordance with development permit for industrial properties east of the railway line on the north bank. (H)

DRAWING KEY

	Concrete shared path >2.5m wide		New picnic area with tables
	Concrete shared path <2.5m wide (to be replaced)		New directional signage
	Proposed 3.0m wide shared path		Public toilets
	Informal path		Parking
	Existing bridge		Existing indigenous vegetation
	New replacement bridge		Potential wetland
	New fencing		Proposed indigenous tree planting



DETAIL PLAN 04 - Hothlym Drive To Railway Line
AITKEN CREEK PARKLANDS MASTERPLAN
0 30 60 90 150



Item	Recommendation	Cost	Responsibility	Priority
HERITAGE				
H1	Support Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung to identify, protect and maintain sites of cultural significance along Aitken Creek.	\$100,000	HCC WWCHAC	High
H2	Coordinate required cultural heritage management plans (CHMPs) for any ground disturbing works recommended in the master plan.	\$150,000	HCC	High
H3	Develop a land management agreement with Wurundjeri Narrap Team for culturally sensitive areas along Aitken Creek.	N/C	HCC WWCHAC	Medium
ENVIRONMENT				
E1	Collaborate with Melbourne Water to improve the interface to the Aitken Boulevard retarding basin outfall safety and amenity.	\$20,000	HCC Melb Water	High
E2	Plant indigenous tree planting along Aitken Creek in partnership with Melbourne Water.	\$10,000	HCC Melb Water	Low
E3	Investigate revegetation opportunities to expand habitat for the Amethyst Hairstreak Butterfly (listed as Endangered) into the golf course and improve habitat links from the existing grasslands to the creek.	\$20,000	HCC	Medium
E4	Investigate a nutrient sponge and additional indigenous tree planting between the 9th fairway and creek in conjunction with staged pine tree removal.	\$120,000	HCC	Medium
E5	Continue weed control in partnership with Melbourne Water.	\$20,000	HCC Melb Water	High
E6	Install new out of bounds markers and signage to the south side of the path and establish additional indigenous shade trees adjoining the 17th fairway.	\$7,000	HCC	High
E7	Liaise with Melbourne Water to coordinate weed control along the creek and investigate opportunity to extend the pond in front of the first green to reduce the pipe length and improve habitat.	\$250,000	Melb Water	Low
E8	Investigate opportunity to harvest stormwater from Craigieburn Road/Craigieburn Central SC to a new storage dam reducing reliance on Class A recycled water for irrigation.	\$525,000	HCC	Low
E9	Liaise with Melbourne Water to review bank stability and drain outfall water quality improvement opportunities when upgrading the Farnborough Ave bridge while retaining path links Chinook Ct and Clovelly Dr.	\$500,000	Melb Water	Low
E10	Review vegetation management along the existing path east of Bridgewater Road to maintain sightlines for safety.	\$5,000	HCC	High
E11	Undertake additional indigenous revegetation at the southern end of Craigieburn Gardens to expand buffers to the culturally sensitive stony rise.	\$20,000	HCC	Medium
E12	Undertake additional indigenous shade tree planting to the southern bank along the path.	\$20,000	HCC	Medium
E13	Undertake additional indigenous shade tree planting to the north bank along the path.	\$20,000	HCC	Medium
E14	Protect large remnant River Red Gums and undertake weed control in the eastern section of the creek.	\$10,000	HCC	High
E15	Undertake additional indigenous shade tree planting to the south bank west of the railway line.	\$20,000	HCC	Low
		\$1,567,000		

6 Implementation

A masterplan provides a vision for an area identifying what is important and what it should look like and how it should function into the future. It establishes a strong and consistent direction by providing a framework for ongoing protection and improvement. It considers the interrelationship between:

- Current character and functionality of the landscape
- Public expectations and needs delivered by date
- Emerging issues and trends
- The realities of the economic, social, environmental and legislative context of the time.

The result is a plan that balances need across a range of often conflicting interests, the masterplan does not necessarily suggest that all elements of the plan should proceed immediately, or that ratepayers and user groups should be responsible for all capital costs, in respect of those items that are progressed.

It is important to note that the intent of a masterplan is to provide a framework for future management, use and development of the creek and open space over an extended period of time so that ad-hoc projects are avoided, and community use and long-term sustainability are maximised. To ensure this intent is achieved the masterplan will be regularly monitored to ensure the outcomes continue to meet community needs in the best possible way.

The masterplan provides recommendation in the following key areas:

- New Capital Projects: new facilities, open space and waterway improvements
- Existing Asset Renewal: upgrade and replacement of existing facilities
- Strategy and Planning: to maximise integration with other plans and projects

The priorities are broadly identified as follows and all works are subject to funding:

- High (H) - 1 to 5 years
- Medium (M) - 6 to 10 years
- Low (L) - 11 to 15 years
- Ongoing (O) - Part of current programs

6.1 Draft Implementation Schedule

Prepared by Mosaic Insights for Hume City Council April 2024. Note preliminary cost estimates are for planning purposes only and subject to CHMP, design and relevant authority approval. At the time of endorsement Council budget does not include an allocation for the projects identified in the implementation plan. Budget for the implementation projects will be sought in future years through Council's annual budget process.

Item	Recommendation	Cost	Responsibility	Priority
R1	RECREATION Establish a direct pedestrian/cyclist crossing at Aitken Boulevard with a central refuge to link existing shared paths on the south side of the creek.	\$72,000	HCC	High
R2	Extend shared path link to Aitken Boulevard on north bank and through to Craigieburn SC.	\$143,500	HCC	High
R3	Install directional/wayfinding signage (with map) at Aitken Boulevard and add distance markers to the existing shared.	\$5,000	HCC	High
R4	Upgrade Leveque Loop play space to include new equipment, picnic area with shelter and drinking fountain within the same play space area.	\$450,000	HCC	Medium
R5	Realign the shared path to the creek side of the playspace at Leveque Loop.	\$35,000	HCC	Medium
R6	Replace narrow section of shared path west of the golf course at Albatross Close.	\$32,500	HCC	Medium
R7	Establish new seating area overlooking the creek on the north side of the path adjoining the 17th fairway.	\$30,000	HCC	High
R8	Establish new ball protection fencing to the path at the rear of the 17th green.	\$20,000	HCC	High
R9	Regrade and resurface the existing cart path over Aitken Creek beside the 18th hole to improve safety for golfers and provide all ability public access to and from the Craigieburn Sporting Club and shared path on Craigieburn Road for pedestrians and cyclists.	\$250,000	HCC	Medium
R10	Improve path protection behind the 10th and 1st greens, replace existing old chainmesh fencing and realign and extend the shared path on Axminster Drive to improve access and safety for pedestrians and cyclists.	\$135,000	HCC	Medium
R11	Replace the existing low bridge crossing at the end of Farnborough Avenue.	\$400,000	HCC	High
R12	Establish a new path between Farnborough Ave bridge and Perron Ct on the north bank to enable bypass of the low bridge crossing upstream of Bridgewater Road when flooded.	\$32,000	HCC	Medium
R13	Establish new picnic tables/seating area on the creek north bank west of Bridgewater Road.	\$15,000	HCC	Medium
R14	Widen path and improve wayfinding signage at Bridgewater Road crossing.	\$40,000	HCC	Medium
R15	Establish informal walking track on south bank between Bridgewater Road and Falmer Place to extend the walking loop and provide an alternative access if low bridges west of Craigieburn Gardens are flooded.	\$27,100	HCC	High
R16	Upgrade shared path and signage to alert users heading west to potential flooding – allowing access out at Hothlym Drive and flood bypass access via Langdon Crescent until low bridge is replaced.	\$71,600	HCC	High
R17	Install wayfinding signage to Craigieburn Gardens and existing toilet facilities on Aitken Creek path. Use distance markers and QR codes to improve links to information about the creek.	\$25,000	HCC	High
R18	Investigate options to improve all ability access to Craigieburn Gardens in consultation with Wurundjeri to determine the preferred approach while minimising impacts on cultural values.	\$400,000	HCC	Medium
R19	Upgrade narrow shared path between Pennyn Place and Beckington Place to 3.0m wide.	\$85,000	HCC	Low
R20	Install access gate to picnic facilities and BMX track.	\$1,500	HCC	High
R21	New picnic area at the southern end of Craigieburn Gardens overlooking the creek.	\$70,000	HCC	Low
R22	Upgrade and replace exercise equipment at Craigieburn Gardens and investigate opportunities for additional fitness stations and informal nature based play and seating areas along the shared.	\$100,000	HCC	Medium
R23	Identify additional areas to support community gatherings and events (via new picnic shelter, seating, toilets, water access, and power) at Craigieburn Gardens.	\$500,000	HCC	Medium
R24	Replace the existing low bridge crossing at the end of Beckington Place.	\$400,000	HCC	Medium
R25	Extend the Aitken Creek shared path to the railway line and along the Stockton Street Road reserve to Craigieburn Station.	\$335,000	HCC	High
R26	Maintain flood warning signage at existing low ford crossings.	\$3,200	HCC	High
R27	Retain dog off lead on south bank of Aitken Creek between railway and proposed new bridge following shared path replacement.	\$1,600	HCC	High
R28	New bridge providing north south access across the creek and linking a future pipe track shared path to the railway station. (M)	\$1,000,000	HCC	Medium
R29	Extend a new 3.0m wide concrete shared path to the railway link and link to the existing track to Abercrom Avenue.	\$277,500	HCC	Medium
R30	Establish a new seating/picnic area overlooking the creek on the south bank.	\$15,000	HCC	Low
R31	Investigate new shared path access under the railway line on the south bank and extend access through to Potter Street enabling longer term connection of the Aitken Creek shared path to Merri Creek.	\$30,000	HCC	Low
R32	Path access under or over the Hume Hwy to Merri Creek is currently not feasible due to the steep road embankment. If road culverts need replacing in the future consider opportunities for access via a new pedestrian/cyclist culvert to improve long term opportunities to connect Aitken Creek Parklands to marram baba.	N/C	DTP	Low
PLANNING				
P1	Encourage rear fronting properties to face onto the creek and reserve to improve passive surveillance and safety in the creek corridor in accordance with the Housing Strategy.	N/C	HCC Planning	High
P2	Monitor bank stability and revegetation in accordance with development permit for industrial properties east of the railway line on the north bank.	N/C	HCC Planning	High
		\$0		
		Subtotal		
		\$6,819,500		
		Contingency (10%)		
		\$681,950		
		Total Aitken Creek Masterplan		
		\$7,501,450		

Appendix A: Community engagement findings

Community feedback

Approximately 30 people were engaged at the pop-up and 12 people participated in the guided walk. In total 56 comments were recorded and feedback from across the two activities included:

- More seats along the path and lighting for safety
- Safe crossing option for Aitken Boulevard
- Increased wayfinding within Aitken Creek
- Keeping Aitken Creek tidier such as trash cleanup, formal plantings, increased maintenance
- Widening the paths along the creek to facilitate multiple users
- Inundation near Clovelly Drive and how to manage it
- Dogs - providing more poop bags and concerns over the off-lead areas
- Maintaining the Memorial for Friends Group near the bottom of Craigieburn Gardens

The community survey received 28 responses from community members with 22 complete and 6 partial completions, including 3 which answered none of the questions. When asked what people love about Aitken Creek, a large proportion of the respondents noted the connection to nature (13 or 65%). The opportunity to see wildlife and the fact that Aitken Creek provides habitat for wildlife was also noted by many of the respondents (eight or 40%).

Respondents were asked to note whether they have seen any native animal and/or plants that can be found in or around the Aitken Creek area. Of the 11 respondents (39.3%) that had seen native species in Aitken Creek, respondents listed kangaroos, a variety of different bird species, gum trees, snakes, bugs, rakali, possums, flying foxes, eels and a variety of fish species.

The majority of respondents noted it would take them 10 minutes or less to walk to Aitken Creek (59.3%). The most common response for people's use of Aitken Creek was for exercise such as running or walking (18 or 64.3%) (Figure). Other popular uses of Aitken Creek for respondents included dog walking (11 or 39.3%), experiencing or immersing in nature (10 or 35.7%), visiting nearby parks (9 or 32.1%), and using bridges to cross creeks (9 or 32.1%). Five respondents selected 'other' and listed bike riding and rollerblading with children, active transport (cycling) and recreation, walking cats, helping to destress, and fishing.

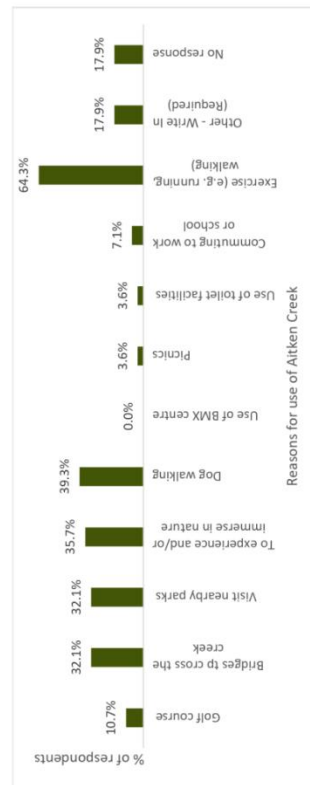


Figure 9. Uses of Aitken Creek

Aitken Creek Master Plan – Draft

When asked about any improvements that could be made to Aitken Creek to help people use the space more often, a quarter of respondents (7 or 25%) noted that nothing currently prevents them from using Aitken Creek. Of respondents that noted suggestions, most believed the type and quality of paths (e.g. surface, slope, width) could be improved (11 or 39.3%), followed by improving connection with other areas (9 or 32.1%), and improving safety (8 or 28.6%). Other suggestions/considerations for improvements noted by 18 respondents included:

- Improved maintenance, particularly regarding management of rubbish
- Improving fishing areas
- Improvements to path surfaces
- Safety improvements such as road crossing and lighting
- Connectivity with other areas
- Signs providing history and facts about the environment
- BBQ and picnic areas
- Nature play park and provision of activities for children such as story time
- Improvements to toilet facilities
- Herbal plant and flower planting.

As part of the online engagement, feedback could also be provided via an interactive map. Participants could "drop a pin" to indicate the location of their suggestions or concerns or "like" other participants' pin comments. The interactive map had a total of 220 pin comments. A summary of the themes is provided in the table below

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Gender Impact Assessment

Project Initiation



Aitken Creek Parklands Master Plan

Project type: Strategic document

Section 1 – Project Background

What is the outcome or issue the project is aiming to address?

The Aitken Creek Parklands Master Plan has been prepared to provide strategic direction for future development and improvement works along the Aitken Creek corridor from Aitken Boulevard to the Merri Creek, to support community recreation, balanced with enhancing and protecting ecological and Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

Which types of community/customer groups use, or are impacted by this project?

- Women
- Men
- Non-binary or self-described genders
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities
- Culturally diverse communities
- Faith-based communities
- LGBTIQ+ communities
- Children and young people (less than 18)
- Older or senior people (65+ years)
- Other, please state:

What is our current understanding, and evidence, of how gender and other intersectionality factors are influenced or impacted by this project? What research and evidence do we currently have to support this knowledge? *(use Alt+Ctrl+f to include references)*

Open spaces, particularly isolated spaces, are often perceived to be unsafe places for women and gender diverse people (*Your Ground Victoria Report 2021*). A Hume Yardstick report from 2021 listed personal safety as #9 in visitor expectations.

Hume’s *Parks Close to Home Consultation Report 2022* showed the motivations to use parks by gender was heavily weighted towards ‘Getting out in Nature’, ‘Exercising Alone’ and ‘Children’s Playground and Activities’ for people identifying as Male or Female. Only a small number of participants identified as gender diverse (shown as ‘using a different term’ in the Report), and their primary motivators to use open space are like those identifying as Male or Female.

Hume’s Community Vision Survey 2021 identified that some places were perceived to be unsafe. Lack of perceived safety in open space can be driven by the presence of dogs, motor bikes, overgrown vegetation, lack of lighting, isolation, and the behaviour of others.

As a waterway area, there are some sections of the parklands that are not easily accessible for prams and people with some disabilities, due to uneven terrain and steep access, not all of which can be re-designed.

Community engagement undertaken to develop the master plan asked how they use Aitken Creek and what improvements would help them use the parkland more often. Of the respondents, 43% were female, 36% male and 21% did not note a gender. There was no differentiation between genders in their responses. The results indicate a desire to use the space more often if safety improvements such as wider paths, lighting and wayfinding signage are implemented.

Based on community engagement the master plan has identified funding for safety improvements in priority areas within the parklands as high with the remaining improvements to be made over time.

Do you think that all community/customer groups have the same needs or access requirements for this project?

- Yes No Unsure/Don't know

Based on the responses during community engagement in the development of the Aitken Creek Master Plan there were no differences identified in the communities needs based on gender.

Section 2 – Project Initiation

In commencing this project, what additional information will you require to understand how to gender and intersectionality factors needs to be considered, and responded to?

No additional information required.

Based on our current knowledge, what specific actions/strategies need to be considered to overcome or address any gender and intersectionality factors in progress this project?

The master plan includes recommendations that will address safety concerns with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, including:

- Maintaining view lines through the site from the adjoining roads, residences, and pathways.
- In future there will be additional trails, encouraging more users within and moving through the site.
- Safe and more direct pedestrian access across Aitken Boulevard.
- Wayfinding signage, maps and other information for easier navigation of the parklands.
- Replacement of low bridges to ensure access across the creek.
- Access to Craigieburn Train Station and lighting to support commuter use in the evenings and early mornings.

Will the community/customer groups who use or are impacted by this project be consulted and engaged during the project’s development and decision-making processes?

- Yes**
Please ensure a consultation and engagement plan is developed
- No**
Explain below why you feel this is not necessary
- Unsure/Don't know**

Community and stakeholder engagement was undertaken in the early stages of the master plan project to inform its development. Further engagement will be undertaken following Council’s approval of the draft master plan. Amendments may be made to the master plan depending on the feedback received. Additional engagement will be undertaken as the implementation projects are further investigated and designed.

Section 3 – GIA Review

Based on your assessment, are there any gender or intersectional factors influenced or impacted by this project? If the answer is ‘Yes’ please completed the GIA Project Finalisation Template before finalising the project.

- Yes**
Please complete the GIA Project Finalisation Template before finalising the project.
- No**
Please briefly explain:

Gendered factors that influence the master plan have been addresses in section 2, no additional actions or the completion of the GIA project finalisation template is required.

The team will continue to monitor work to capture any future identified gendered factors.

Please confirm the following internal stakeholders have reviewed and approve this assessment

- Department Manager
 Organisational Performance & Strategy
- Internal stakeholders with relevant knowledge of project subject matter, or intersectionality factors related to the project. Please outline below:

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REPORT NO:	9.2
REPORT TITLE:	2024 Community Grant Project Round 2 Outcomes & Year-Round Grants Update
SOURCE:	Narda Shanley, Community Development Officer
DIVISION:	City Services & Living
FILE NO:	HCC20/209
POLICY:	Social Justice Charter (2021) Grant-giving Policy (2022)
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	1.3: Promote a healthy, inclusive and respectful community that fosters community pride and safety
ATTACHMENT:	1. <i>Attachment 1 - Application details Project Round 2 and Year-Round Grants</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 This report recommends the allocation of funds for applications received in Round Two – 2024 Community Project Grant.
- 1.2 The report also contains an update on the allocation of funds for the 2023-24 Community Grant Program Year-Round categories for period 1 July 2023 – 30 March 2024.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 2.1 Endorses the allocation of \$8,000 to the successful 2024 Community Project Grants Round Two applicants as listed in Attachment One, Table One.**
- 2.2 Notes that \$21,417 has been awarded under delegation in the Year-Round categories of the Community Grants program from 1 July 2023 - 30 March 2024, as listed in Attachment One, Table Two.**
- 2.3 Endorses the reallocation of \$12,000 in unused funds from Project Round Two into the Year-Round grants categories.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

- 3.1 The provision of community grants is aligned to the Service Performance principles (Part 5, Division 1, Section 106) of the Local Government Act, 2020 specifically that:
 - 3.1.1 Services are equitable and responsive to the diverse needs of the community.
 - 3.1.2 Services are accessible and provide good value for money.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 Council’s adopted 2023/24 budget provided an allocation of \$540,859 for the 2024 Annual Community Grants Program. All community grants have been funded within annual budget allocations, and there are no additional financial implications resulting from this report.
- 4.2 Council approved the allocation of \$492,104 to grant recipients in Annual Grants categories at the 9 October 2023 Council Meeting (report 8.4). \$20,000 was set aside for Project Round 2 and \$30,000 was allocated for Year-Round grant categories.
- 4.3 \$21,417 of funds allocated to Year-Round categories has been distributed, with \$8,583 remaining as of 30 April 2024.

REPORT NO: 9.2 (cont.)

- 4.4 As per recommendation 2.1 of this report, it is recommended that \$8,000 be distributed to Project Grant Round 2 recipients. This leaves \$12,000 of funding unallocated. It is recommended that the remaining \$12,000 is reallocated to Year-Round Categories for distribution by 30 June 2024. Should the funds allocated to these categories be exhausted before 30 June 2024, the year-round categories will be closed early.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

- 5.1 Programs dedicated to environmental sustainability are a target of the Community Grants program.
- 5.2 Assessors are informed of Council policies and frameworks related to environmental sustainability as part of their induction each year.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

- 6.1 Programs that address climate change adaptation are included within the broader approach of encouraging programs dedicated to environmental sustainability (see 5.1).

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

- 7.1 Human rights have been taken into consideration in the design and delivery of the community grants program. The rights that have been considered are:
- 7.1.1 right to recognition and equality before the law (section 8);
 - 7.1.2 protection of privacy and reputation (section 13); and
 - 7.1.3 cultural rights (section 19).
- 7.2 The above rights have been considered and applied through the following methods:
- 7.1.4 assessment process for all grant applicants is applied in the same way, with applicants being assessed on information provided only.
 - 7.1.5 declarations of interest are declared in advance and assessors reassigned as necessary to avoid discrimination.
 - 7.1.6 data collected is in line with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic).
- 7.2 The Community Grants Program is also underpinned by the Hume City Council Social Justice Charter (2021).
- 7.3 The Community Grants Program is designed to encourage participation in the cultural life of Hume, encouraging all people to enjoy culture, practice religion as they wish, and practice cultural expression.
- 7.4 Consistent with requirements under the Gender Equality Act 2020, a Gender Impact Assessment of the Community Grants Program was conducted before the Program was initiated in 2023.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

- 8.1 Community consultation is undertaken as part of the review of the Annual Community Grants program. This takes place from November to February each year.

9. DISCUSSION:

2024 Community Project Grant Round Two

- 9.1 Six applications were received for the 2021 Community Project Grant Round Two. Five applications were identified as being eligible for assessment.
- 9.2 The Officer Assessment Panel made recommendations which were presented to the Councillor Review Panel.
- 9.3 Two applications are recommended for funding. Details and recommended funding allocations are provided in Attachment One, Table One.

2024 Year-Round category update

REPORT NO: 9.2 (cont.)

- 9.4 Year-round grant categories provide a rapid funding opportunity for groups that experienced an unforeseen funding need that did not fall within the annual grants’ timeframes.
- 9.5 Applications are assessed by an Officer Assessment Panel and approved by the Director City Services and Living as per delegation.
- 9.6 During the period 1 July 2023 until 30 April 2024, there have been 33 applications received, with 19 approved. Further details are provided in Attachment One, Table Two.
- 9.7 The table below shows the trends in applications to the Year-Round categories. There has been a significant increase in applications to the Quick Response Grant when compared to previous years, and a decrease in applications in the other two categories.

Category	23/24 (to end April)	22/23	21/22	20/21	19/20
Individual Development	3 received 1 approved	11 received 3 approved	4 received 1 approved	0 received 0 approved	8 received 7 approved
Defibrillator	3 received 3 approved	10 received 3 approved	5 received 3 approved	8 received 3 approved	8 received 8 approved
Quick-Response	27 received 15 approved	15 received 8 approved	4 received 1 approved	11 received 0 approved	22 received 11 approved
<i>Totals</i>	<i>33 received</i> <i>19 approved</i>	<i>36 received</i> <i>14 approved</i>	<i>13 received</i> <i>5 approved</i>	<i>19 received</i> <i>3 approved</i>	<i>38 received</i> <i>26 approved</i>

- 9.8 The trend in Year-Round applications has informed the 2025 Community Grants Program, with Defibrillator grants being rolled into the Quick Response category – these changes will take effect from 1 July 2024.

10. CONCLUSION:

- 10.1 Project Round Two, and Year-round grants are an important part of Hume’s Community Annual Grant Program, ensuring communities are supported to deliver local projects throughout the year.

REPORT NO: 9.2 (cont.)

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ATTACHMENT ONE – 2024 COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS UPDATE

TABLE ONE - PROJECT ROUND TWO RECOMMENDATIONS

Organisation Name	Project Description	Amount
Approved		
Goonawarra Neighbourhood House	Neighbour Day – Sunbury. Project to increase social connection and reduce social isolation by encouraging residents to get to know their neighbours.	\$5,000
Gowrie Broadmeadows Valley	Part funding for elements of the establishment of a Road Safety Traffic School program	\$3,000
	<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>\$8,000</i>
Not Approved		
Al Muzzammil Academy Inc		
BDS Support Services		
Victorian Arabic Social Services		
Ineligible		
Tullamarine Football Club	Group already funded under 2024 program	

REPORTS – OFFICERS’ REPORTS

11 JUNE 2024

COUNCIL MEETING

Attachment 1 - Attachment 1 - Application details Project Round 2 and Year-Round Grants

TABLE TWO – YEAR-ROUND CATEGORIES UPDATE

Category	Organisation Name	Amount
Approved		
Defibrillator	BDS Support Services	\$1,815
Defibrillator	Robynmore Calisthenics College	\$2,000
Defibrillator	Royal Rhinos Cricket Club	\$1,895
Quick Response	Al Muzzammil Academy Inc	\$1,000
Quick Response	Auspicious Community Inc	\$1,000
Quick Response	Big Group Hug	\$957
Quick Response	Australian Multicultural Community Center	\$1,000
Quick Response	East Sunbury Football Club	\$1,000
Quick Response	Greek Senior Citizen Club of Gladstone Park and Tullamarine	\$1,000
Quick Response	Hume Turkish Womans Group*	\$1,000
Quick Response	Juno	\$1,000
Quick Response	Libyan Women Association	\$1,000
Quick Response	Lighthearted Unity Connections	\$1,000
Quick Response	OzChrist Care Community	\$1,000
Quick Response	Roxburgh Magpies Basketball Club	\$1,000
Quick Response	Tullamarine Football Club Incorporated	\$1,000
Quick Response	Victorian Lebanese Community Council	\$1,000
Quick Response	Yemeni Australian Community Victoria	\$1,000
Individual Development	Dr Chido Mwaturura	\$750
TOTAL		\$21,417

Others		
Quick Response	Al Muzzammil Academy Inc	Ineligible – applied twice
Quick Response	Broadmeadows Stars Sports Club	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	Circolo Pensionati Italiani Gladstone Park	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	Hume Mens Shed Craigieburn	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	Indo Australian Welfare Club	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	Lighthearted Unity Connections	Ineligible – applied twice
Quick Response	Multicultural Youth Centre	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	Newbury Seniors Club-3064	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	North Western District Pipe Band	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	Tamang Society of Australia	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	Ugarit senior club	Unsuccessful
Quick Response	Westmeadows Indigenous Community Gardens	Ineligible – Capital works project
Individual Development	Miss Hatice Fikircier	Unsuccessful
Individual Development	Mr Siri Wijetunga	Unsuccessful

REPORT NO:	9.3
REPORT TITLE:	Response to Petition PJL307 regarding establishment of LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee
SOURCE:	Julie Andrews, Coordinator Community Capacity Building Karla Collrick, Team Leader Community Development Elizabeth Shield, Community Development Officer
DIVISION:	City Services & Living
FILE NO:	IN24/5640(HCC04/183)
POLICY:	Social Justice Charter (2021)
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	1.3: Promote a healthy, inclusive and respectful community that fosters community pride and safety
ATTACHMENT:	Nil

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 This report responds to the community petition (PJL307) endorsed at the meeting of Council on Monday 26 February 2024 for Council consideration:

It is time for Hume City Council to listen to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQ+) community and establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee. This is an important way to ascertain community feedback on LGBTIQ+ inclusion in the City and ensure the City is welcoming and supportive of the LGBTIQ+ community. We, the residents and ratepayers of Hume City, request that Council establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

- 2.1 Notes the community support for establishing an LGBTIQ+ specific group in Hume.**
- 2.2 Endorses the establishment of an LGBTIQ+ Community Working Group.**
- 2.3 Receives a 12-month progress and activity report, outlining key milestones, learnings, proposed Terms of Reference, and future direction for the group by the end of 2025.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

- 3.1 Local Government is bound by laws that give guidance on how to make Victoria a safer, fairer, and more inclusive state. These laws include the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* and the *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001*. These laws identify the responsibilities of public authorities to protect and promote human rights, and eliminate discrimination, sexual harassment, and racial and religious vilification.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 The financial implications of establishing and supporting a community working group are minimal (i.e. initial cost of advertising for members etc). These costs can be accommodated within the Social Justice Charter operational budget.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

- 5.1 There are no environmental sustainability considerations relevant to this report.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

- 6.1 There are no climate change considerations relevant to this report.

REPORT NO: 9.3 (cont.)

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

- 7.1 The *Hume City Council Social Justice Charter (2021)* defines Council’s commitment to social justice and articulates the principles that influence all Council initiatives. The Charter seeks to advance a fair and just society by promoting respect for every citizen, encouraging community participation, improving wellbeing, and reducing the causes of disadvantage, particularly those experiencing barriers to participation.
- 7.2 The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* (Victorian Charter) considerations in the development of an LGBTIQ+ Community Working Group include the right to recognition and equality. All Victorians have the right to be recognised as a person, to enjoy their rights without discrimination (Section 8).
- 7.3 Section 15 guides the right to freedom of expression and protects the right of community members to have their own opinion whilst respecting the rights and reputation of others. The role of an LGBTIQ+ Community Working Group would seek to advance opportunities to increase social, health, economic inclusion by seeking to understand and address barriers that face Hume’s LGBTIQ+ community.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

- 8.1 Since 2021 Council has received requests via Council meetings, the Hume City Council website and emails from residents requesting LGBTIQ+ community acknowledgement including holding an LGBTIQ+ community forum, celebrating the International Day against LGBTIQ+ discrimination (IDAHOBIT) and establishing an LGBTIQ+ Working/Advisory Group.
- 8.2 Over the past three years, Council has engaged in a number of LGBTIQ+ related initiatives, including:
- 2022 and 2023: Rainbow Flag Raising for IDAHOBIT.
 - 2023 and 2024: Partner in Pride in the North Stall at Midsumma Festival.
 - 2023 Hume City represented in Victoria’s Pride March.
 - 2023 and 2024 Pride in the North stall at Craigieburn Festival.

Feedback from these events indicates a strong desire for Council to engage more with Hume’s LGBTIQ+ community, including hosting events and activities that support visibility and inclusion, and supporting Hume’s LGBTIQ+ community to have a voice.

- 8.3 In addition to this, in 2021 DPV Health launched the [“You are who you say you are” report](#). This document included the outcomes of a community needs analysis of LGBTIQ+ people living in Hume and Whittlesea. One of the significant findings of the report was the hostility and discrimination experienced by LGBTIQ+ people in Hume City. Respondents also expressed their needs to be recognised and safely participate in the community.
- 8.4 The petition tabled aligns with past feedback and advice from Hume’s LGBTIQ+ community.

9. DISCUSSION:

Petition PJL307

- 9.1 On 26 February 2024, the petition PJL307 was received, and endorsed by Council for consideration:

It is time for Hume City Council to listen to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQ+) community and establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee. This is an important way to ascertain community feedback on LGBTIQ+ inclusion in the City and ensure the City is welcoming and supportive of the LGBTIQ+ community. We, the residents and ratepayers of Hume City, request that Council establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee.

REPORT NO: 9.3 (cont.)

- 9.2 Since this time, Officers have considered this request in line with demographic data, community feedback, consideration of governance requirements and Council’s existing committees.

Hume’s LGBTIQA+ community

- 9.3 2021 Census data indicates that 835 persons in Hume City are living as same sex couples. Data for individuals who identify as LGBTIQA+ is not captured in the Census.
- 9.4 While the exact population size is not known, [recent reports](#) have estimated that around 11 per cent of the Australian population identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex. Based on this estimate and current population figures, Hume’s LGBTIQA+ community could be as high as 28,000 people.
- 9.5 Over the past few years an increased range of LGBTIQA+ community groups and organisations have established in Hume including:
- Sunbury and Surrounds LGBTIQA+ Social Group (220+ members)
 - Hume Rainbow Families Playgroup (Mickleham North)
 - AFL Pride Ambassadors (Westmeadows Football Club)
 - Melbourne Airport Pride Network
 - Pride in the North (interagency collaborative) including Uniting, Foundation House, Spectrum, DPV health and Sunbury and Cobaw Community health.
 - LGBTIQA+ Northern Community Connect Facebook Group for Whittlesea and Hume residents (212 members).
- 9.6 In addition to the community groups operating in Hume, Council:
- established and facilitates the GLITTER group for LGBTIQA+ young people.
 - established and facilitates the LGBTIQA+ Youth Action Group
 - supported the establishment of Mickleham North Rainbow Families Playgroup.
 - supported a Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony to celebrate IDAHOBIT in 2022, 2023 and 2024.
- 9.7 As outlined in the Community Consultation section above, since 2021 Council has received ongoing requests from various community members and stakeholders, seeking further initiatives to support Hume’s LGBTIQA+ community.

Governance considerations

- 9.1 Petition PJL307 requested that Council establish an Advisory Group. It is noted that under the Local Government Act (2020) Advisory Groups are not defined, furthermore, Council does not have a uniform approach to the establishment or naming of new groups.
- 9.2 It is noted that Council supports a wide range of networks, committees and working groups that contribute to the cultural, social, and economic wellbeing of the Hume community. An example of these groups includes:
- Community Safety Advisory Group
 - Friends of Aileu Community Committee
 - Hume Clean Taskforce
 - Hume Community Jobs and Skills Working Group.
 - Hume Interfaith Network
 - Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group
 - Sustainability Taskforce
 - Multicultural Communications Working Group
- 9.3 Considering the variation in naming conventions for existing groups across Council, and the anticipated purpose of this group (ensuring services and activities are inclusive of the LGBTIQA+ community), it is recommended that the group is titled *LGBTIQA+ Community Working Group*.

REPORT NO: 9.3 (cont.)

Proposed establishment of an LGBTIQ+ Community Working Group

- 9.4 It is recommended that Council support the formation of an LGBTIQ+ Community Working Group, addressing the community feedback received in PJL307.
- 9.5 It is anticipated that the LGBTIQ+ Community Working Group will initially focus on identifying areas of interest for members, and opportunities to continue to advance inclusive and welcoming activities that are supportive of Hume’s LGBTIQ+ community.
- 9.6 Initial membership of the group would be established by an Expression of Interest process, seeking approximately 10 people to participate. It is envisaged that the frequency of meetings would be similar to other community working groups (i.e. quarterly), however this would be determined by members in the establishment phase.
- 9.7 Based on timing to work through the Expression of Interest process, it is likely that the group will be in place by late 2024.
- 9.8 Administration support for this group would be undertaken by the Community Capacity Building team.
- 9.9 A 12-month progress and activity report, outlining key milestones, learnings, proposed Terms of Reference, and future direction for the group will be reported back to Council by the end of 2025.

10. CONCLUSION:

- 10.1 Hume’s LGBTIQ+ community has expressed strong interest in establishing a LGBTIQ+ specific group to consider matters of importance to the community.
- 10.2 The proposed establishment of an LGBTIQ+ Community Working Group will support this community aspiration and strengthen inclusion across Hume City.

REPORT NO:	9.4
REPORT TITLE:	Street and Reserve Tree Policy
SOURCE:	Mark Doyle, Manager City Parks & Open Spaces
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	-
POLICY:	-
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:	2.1: Facilitate appropriate urban development and enhance natural environment, heritage, landscapes and rural places
ATTACHMENT:	1. <i>Street and Reserve Tree Policy</i>

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT:

- 1.1 The current Street and Reserve Tree Policy was approved by Council in November 2022.
- 1.2 The Street and Reserve Tree Policy has provided guidance for Council on the management of the street and reserve trees within the Municipality. Amendments have been made to the updated policy (Attachment 1).

2. RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 That Council:

- 2.1.1 **Notes the draft Tree Management Policy**
- 2.1.2 **Authorises the draft Tree Management Policy to be advertised for Community Consultation via the Participate Hume platform.**

3. LEGISLATIVE POWERS:

- 3.1 Road Safety Act 1986 Victoria
- 3.2 Road Management Act 2004
- 3.3 Electrical Safety (Electrical Line Clearance) Regulations 2020

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

- 4.1 Council has allocated \$8.450m for the management of the urban forest for 2023/24.
- 4.2 This budget allows Council to maintain the urban forest to the current standards.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

- 5.1 Urban Forest canopy helps to reduce urban heat impacts through shady urban tree canopy that help cool the surrounding area.
- 5.2 The Street and Reserve Tree Policy ensures that Council has clear guidance for management of the urban forest within Hume. This provides the best practice guidelines to sustain and increase canopy cover, reduce environmental extremes and provide improved amenity for the community.

REPORT NO: 9.4 (cont.)

6. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONSIDERATIONS:

- 6.1 A well maintained and managed urban forest ensures Council is providing the community with urban cooling effects, shade and increased biodiversity in urban environments.
- 6.2 With the outlook for Hume being a hotter and drier climate into the future, the importance of a well-maintained urban forest will become more critical to ensure Hume continues to be a sustainable and desirable place to live.
- 6.3 Councils Climate Action Plan 2023-2028 identifies increasing canopy cover across the Municipality as an important step to reduce heat island effect and to keep households and people cooler during heat waves.

7. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS APPLICATION:

- 7.1 There is no Charter of Human Rights issues to be considered regarding this policy.

8. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION:

- 8.1 It is proposed that the draft Tree Management Policy undertake community consultation through the Participate Hume platform. This will provide the community with the opportunity to provide feedback on how Council manages the urban forest across the municipality.

9. DISCUSSION:

- 9.1 The Urban Forest canopy cover across Hume is currently only 4%. Greater tree planting and protection in streets and open space will help reduce the heat impacts across the city.
- 9.2 Some of the key policy directions in the Draft Open Space Strategy include:
 - To demonstrate all efforts to prevent tree removals. The proposed policy outlines how tree removals will be assessed with the view to only remove trees when necessary.
 - Optimise urban cooling by increasing tree canopy in open space reserves. Dedicated 'oasis areas' planted to achieve 70% canopy cover, 'tree reserves' planted to achieve 50% canopy cover and all other reserves to achieve at least 20% canopy cover by 2050
- 9.3 The draft policy defines how Council will manage trees in the City and will assist residents, property owners, authorities Council officers and developers to understand the City's requirements for planning and management of trees.
- 9.4 The draft policy includes further information on tree planting and outlines the methodology for future tree planting to be undertaken in those areas with low tree numbers to be prioritised.
- 9.5 The draft policy now also includes additional information on how tree values are calculated to industry standards to provide clarity to residents and developers.
- 9.6 Tree pruning and removal criteria has been updated to provide greater clarity on how Council will manage requests for tree works and removals. This includes outlining that a suitably qualified Council officer can authorise a tree removal, following an inspection, if the tree meets the removal criteria.

REPORT NO: 9.4 (cont.)

- 9.7 The draft policy includes information on when Council will endeavour to inform and engage with residents where tree planting is to be undertaken.
- 9.8 The policy clearly outlines the management of tree related complaints which will be managed as per Hume Councils Complaints Policy (POL/299)

10. CONCLUSION:

- 10.1 Responsible management of Councils urban forest is critical to ensure Hume can continue to provide an environment that will reduce urban heat effects, improve amenity for the community and enhance biodiversity in the urban setting.
- 10.2 The draft policy has been updated to reflect current industry best practice and community consultation will be undertaken to provide residents the opportunity to comment on the policy to ensure it meets the needs of the community.

REPORT NO: 9.4 (cont.)

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TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Policy Reference No.	POL/202
File No.	HCC04/794
Strategic Objective	2.2: Design and maintain our City with accessible spaces and a strong sense of place
Adopted by Council	14 November 2022
Date for Review	November 2023
Responsible Officer	Manager City Parks and Open Spaces
Department	City Parks and Open Spaces Department

STREET AND RESERVE TREE POLICY

1 POLICY STATEMENT

- 1.1 This policy defines how Hume City Council will manage trees in the City and therefore will assist residents, property owners, authorities, Council officers, contractors, developers and those working with Council to understand the City’s requirements for the planning and management of street and reserve trees.
- 1.2 This policy is guided by aspirations expressed in the Hume City Council Plan 2021-2025 and Hume’s Urban Forest Principles 2020.
- 1.3 Street and reserve trees contribute to the appearance of the City through their aesthetic value, by providing identity and character. In addition, trees contribute to improving urban environments by absorbing heat, providing shade, reducing solar radiation, providing habitat, utilising storm water run-off and assisting in air purification.
- 1.4 In order to sustain this contribution, trees need to be consistently managed according to current ‘best practice’ in arboriculture and Council’s commitments, as documented in the Council Plan.
- 1.5 Management of trees from planting to removal includes planning for new trees, community engagement, determining planting location, tree species selection, planting, maintenance and pruning methods and the removal of dead trees, trees in poor or very poor condition or trees that pose an imminent risk to people or property. .
- 1.6 Maximizing soil area and volume for trees in streets and reserves is a priority for council. This will increase tree canopy cover over time as consistent with Hume’s Urban Forest Principles.

2 PURPOSE

The aim of this policy is to provide city wide consistency with decision making in regard to planting, pruning, and removing trees and to document Hume City Council’s commitment to improving the natural shade and other benefits to the City through the maintenance and enhancement of its street and reserve trees.

3 SCOPE

- 3.1 The scope of this Policy covers the planning, planting, maintenance and removal of trees and stands of trees on Council owned parks, reserves, open space and road reserves.

In Scope	Out of Scope
Council owned and/or managed parks and open spaces. Council owned and/or managed road reserves as defined in the ‘Code of Practice Operational Responsibility for Public Roads’ Crown land that Council is the gazette committee of management, to the extent of Council’s obligations under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 Land to which Council has entered into an agreement/licenses/leases requiring management of tree.	Private land. Public land owned by other agencies where Council has no formalized agreement for tree management or maintenance. Vegetation planted for the purposes of being a hedge, shrub border or shrub garden, native revegetation or regeneration. Sites of ecological significance and natural areas, including those that are on legal road, currently or proposed to be managed in accordance with ecological principles. Crown or other land that the Council does not own or have a legal responsibility or agreement to.

STREET AND RESERVE TREE POLICY

Policy Reference No:	POL/202	Responsible Officer:	Manager City Parks and Open Spaces
Date of Re/Adoption:	14 November 2022	Department:	City Parks and Open Spaces
Review Date:	November 2023		
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STREET AND RESERVE TREE POLICY

4 OBJECTIVE

4.1 Tree Planning

- 4.1.1 Planning for new trees occurs continuously throughout the year and areas with low tree numbers will be prioritized for tree planting. Community engagement is an important part of planning for the trees of the future. A replacement tree will be planted when a tree is removed in the same location whenever possible.
- 4.1.2 Council trees are council assets and any construction or other activity that affects street or reserve trees is subject to approval from the City Parks and Open Spaces department. Trees are to be protected from development in accordance with the Australian Standard AS4970 The Protection of Trees on Development Sites
- 4.1.3 The soil growing media on Council land is a council asset managed by City Parks and Open Spaces. Infrastructure constructed on soil growing media on Council land should be done in a manner that minimizes the impact of the construction on the soil and tree roots, utilising permeable surfaces and a structural soil base to retain and enhance tree canopy where possible.

4.2 Tree Planting

- 4.2.1 Tree planting season is generally between the months of April – September as this is the optimal time to ensure planting success.
- 4.2.2 All tree planting undertaken on Council managed land throughout the City must comply with the Council requirements articulated in the documents listed in the Related Documents section. These documents are available by contacting Council or accessing Council’s Internet site.
- 4.2.3 Council will select species of tree for planting that are suitable for, and perform well within the site, and that have the ability to contribute positively to the City’s environment. A broad diversity of species is required to mitigate against climate impacts, pest and disease outbreaks, and to support local wildlife.
- 4.2.4 Proposed tree planting for new developments and subdivisions must comply with Council’s ‘Recommended Species List’ and ‘Tree Planting and Establishment Specifications’ and/or *HUME CITY COUNCIL LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES* - Landscape processes for developers, unless approved by City Parks and Open Spaces Department.
- 4.2.5 Residents are not permitted to plant trees within the nature-strip, sites within the road reserve or in a Council managed park. Council will endeavour to inform residents who live close to a planned replacement tree planting site via the Council website. Residents who live in the street where a renewal tree planting is planned may be consulted on the character of the street. The final decision as to the positioning and species of the tree will be made by the Council.

Policy Reference No:	POL/202	Responsible Officer:	Manager Parks
Date of Re/Adoption:	14 November 2022	Department:	City Parks and Open Space
Review Date:	November 2023		

STREET AND RESERVE TREE POLICY

- 4.2.6 No compensation will be available to residents for the removal of trees planted by the resident. . Notification will be given to allow residents to remove the tree. If not actioned within three weeks, Council staff or contractors will remove the tree to allow a new tree to be planted.

4.3 Tree Pruning

Tree pruning by Council will be in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373- 2007 Pruning of amenity Trees or its successor.

- 4.3.1 Council will maintain tree clearances in accordance with the current and relevant State Government legislation (i.e. the minimum clearance between trees and services, road signs etc). Council will prune trees under powerlines in compliance with the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan .
- 4.3.2 Tree height (of the tree crown) reduction pruning, or crown lifting (removing lower branches) will not be used to alleviate tree issues such as shading or debris (leaves, bark, fruit, flowers), or the establishment or retention or enhancement of views.
- 4.3.3 Council will undertake height reduction pruning of trees for:
- tree health and safety concerns where it is appropriate that the tree be retained; or
 - to provide clearance of overhead electrical conductors; or
 - where there are environmental reasons for the retention of the tree (e.g. slope stability, habitat, providing shelter for new planting); or
 - where an approved landscape plan requires trees to be pruned to meet specific urban design outcomes.
- 4.3.4 Council will prune trees to alleviate identified hazards such as:
- overhead services clearance; and
 - removal of broken, dead, dying, or diseased branches; and
 - branches obstructing footpaths, cycle ways, carriageways, vehicle crossings, car parks; and
 - any other pruning required to maintain the health and structural integrity of the tree; and
 - emergency situations.
 - Safety sight lines for traffic management.
- 4.3.5 Council may also undertake pruning to alleviate boundary encroachment based on an assessment by Council's qualified arborist. Property owners and residents may request a tree be inspected for additional pruning outside of the Council's planned cyclic pruning program. Additional pruning requirements will be assessed using the criteria listed above.

Policy Reference No:	POL/202	Responsible Officer:	Manager Parks
Date of Re/Adoption:	14 November 2022	Department:	City Parks and Open Space
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STREET AND RESERVE TREE POLICY

- 4.3.6 Property owners and residents are advised to contact Council and request an inspection and pruning of Council’s tree street or reserve trees that they deem problematic or have over hanging foliage into their property via Council’s Customer Service.
- 4.3.7 Council has no jurisdiction over encroachment by private trees across private boundaries, this is considered a civil matter between private parties, however advice and assistance can be sought from Dispute Resolution Victoria on how best to handle these interactions.
- 4.3.8 Council’s City Parks and Open Spaces Department does not have jurisdiction over any aspects of private tree management, issues, or disputes.
- 4.3.9 Council’s City Laws Department can enforce against some private tree encroachment but only when it affects the public realm or Council managed easements. If a resident or property owner damages a Council street or reserve tree, causes a structural defect in the tree or reduces the aesthetics of the tree through inappropriate pruning, Council will, if possible, seek reimbursement of the lost amenity value of the tree. The cost of repair to the damaged tree will be based on the Maurer-Hoffman Formula as detailed in the Street and Reserve Tree Guidelines
- 4.3.10 While Council is a strong advocate for renewable energy, it does not support the pruning or removal of existing trees to facilitate solar infrastructure and access. The impact of mature, establishing and future tree planting should be considered by the solar infrastructure feasibility assessment prior to the installation of infrastructure by the potential owners.

4.4 Tree Removal

- 4.4.1 Council will only remove trees if one or more of the criteria set out in its ‘Tree Removal Criteria’ in 4.4.or 4.5 are met.
- 4.4.2 Council will inform and consult with residents on non urgent street tree removal decisions. when appropriate. When consulted, residents are given 10 working days to respond. Residents may make a submission about the decision to remove a tree, which will be considered before any works occur.
- 4.4.3 If a tree is found to be in poor or very poor condition and/or present an imminent risk to the public the tree will be removed immediately, and the nearest resident will be notified.

Policy Reference No:	POL/202	Responsible Officer:	Manager Parks
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STREET AND RESERVE TREE POLICY

4.4.4 Tree removal must be approved by a suitably qualified Council officer from within the urban forest team if the tree meets one or more of the criteria set out below. Safety is the priority, however, aesthetic, and ecological factors, including wildlife habitat will be considered when making all tree management and removal decisions. The tree or tree group will be inspected and assessed by a suitably qualified Council arborist from within the urban forest team for tree health, structure, Useful Life Expectancy (ULE), potential risk and species appropriateness.

4.4.5 Trees and groups of trees may be removed when one or more of the following criteria are met:

- The tree is in a poor or very poor condition, except where a tree is indigenous or in a conservation site.; or
- Infected with a pest or disease where the recommended control is not applicable, and removal is the recommended practice to prevent transmission; or
- Poses a high or extreme safety hazard that cannot be corrected by pruning, transplanting or other treatments; or
- Severely interferes with a neighbouring tree or tree group to the extent that neither tree can develop to its full potential. The more desirable tree will be preserved; or
- The tree is proven to be causing damage or nuisance to public or private property and there are no arboricultural or engineering or property maintenance solutions available to rectify the situation; or
- The tree or group of trees is included in a Council approved Precinct Plan; or the street tree rejuvenation program as identified by Council’s Parks Department; or
- Any invasive species of tree t under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.
- Non-approved tree plantings.
- Where the Chief Integrity Officer, Manager Customer Experience and Manager City Parks and Open Spaces considers there are exceptional circumstances and the tree should be removed.

4.4.6 Council acknowledges that some residents have concerns with leaf litter, fruit, bark, or other debris that trees may shed over the seasons. However, it also recognises that trees drop leaves, bark, sticks, flowers, fruit and sap as part of their normal life cycle. They are natural occurrences therefore tree removals will not be authorised based on this reason alone.

4.4.7 Trees and groups of trees may also be removed when one or more of the following criteria are met:

- Council approved work improvements or infrastructure repair or maintenance required to be made around the tree (s) will kill or render the tree(s) a risk or significantly impact on the tree(s) condition and useful life expectancy, and there are no arboricultural or engineering or alternative maintenance solutions available to retain the tree; or

Policy Reference No:	POL/202	Responsible Officer:	Manager Parks
Date of Re/Adoption:	14 November 2022	Department:	City Parks and Open Space
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- Vehicle crossings, indented parking bays, footpaths and road upgrades where tree removal has been approved by a suitably qualified Council arborist within the urban forest team...

4.5 Cost Offset for Tree Removal

- 4.5.1 The cost offset for tree removal is calculated using the industry standard method of Amenity Tree Valuation based on the Maurer-Hoffman Formula. The formula equals Tree Removal Costs plus Amenity Value plus Tree Reinstatement Costs. Amenity Value is a base value modified by tree condition, tree location, tree impact on the landscape and tree species suitability. The values used in the formula will be updated from time to time according to variations in the cost of living and consumer price index. The cost offset value must be calculated by a qualified council arborist.

4.6 Significant Trees

- 4.6.1 Council identifies and manages ‘trees of significance’ within the City. Trees are classified as ‘significant’, if one or more criteria are fulfilled from Council’s ‘Tree Significance Criteria’, e.g. Environmental, cultural, historical or horticultural value to the City.
- 4.6.2 Council will develop a management plan for each tree or group of significant trees, outlining strategies to maximise health, longevity and public safety, as well as the criteria for removal and replacement decisions, where appropriate.
- 4.6.3 Trees with tree controls listed on sites within the schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the Hume Planning Scheme must not be removed without the approval of Council. Residents must first apply for a planning permit through Council on these sites as per the Victorian State Planning and Environment Act 1987.
- 4.6.4 Trees within the Significant Landscape Overlay, Environmental Significance Overlay or Vegetation Protection Overlay in the Hume Planning Scheme must not be removed without the approval of Council. Residents must first apply for a planning permit through Council on these sites as per the Victorian State Planning and Environment Act 1987.
- 4.6.5 The destruction or lopping (pruning) of native vegetation including trees is not permitted without the approval of Council and is governed by Victorian statewide policy. Residents must first apply for a planning permit through Council to obtain permission to lop (prune) native vegetation as per the Victorian State Planning and Environment Act 1987.

4.7 Community Engagement

- 4.7.1 Council is aware that there is widespread community interest in tree management decisions therefore community engagement is an important consideration.

4.7.2 In line with Council's Community Engagement Policy POL/289 the engagement processes scales depending on the expected level of community interest i.e. if only a single tree is affected or Council is replacing trees then Council may just inform the directly affected resident.

4.7.3 Whereas if a whole or significant part of a gateway or boulevard is affected, and the character of the area changed then directly affected and broader community views may be sought through a project consultation process.

4.8 Tree Related Complaints/Private Nuisance/Property Damage Handling

4.8.1 Tree related complaints are handled in line with the Hume City Council's Complaints Policy POL/299.

4.8.2 Private Nuisance/Property Damage Handling

All private nuisance and private damage need to be referred to Council's Risk Management Team for assessment and review on a case-by-case basis.

5 RELATED DOCUMENTS

5.1 Related Policies

5.1.1 Complaints Policy POL/299

5.1.2 Community Engagement Policy POL/289

5.1.3 Parking on Narrow Street Policy POL/184

5.1.4 Vehicle Crossings Siting Policy POL/205

5.1.5 Hume Planning Scheme

5.2 Guidelines

5.2.1 Street and Reserve Tree Guidelines

5.2.2 Electric Line Clearance Management Plan

5.2.3 Landscape Guidelines

5.2.4 Code of Practice Operational Responsibility for Public Roads

6 DEFINITIONS

Easement - A property right to make a limited use of land by someone other than an owner.

Growing media – a substance through which plant roots can grow and extract water and nutrients.

Native vegetation - plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses.

Renewal tree planting – replacing a tree that was removed or placing a new tree in location that is substantially different to the previous tree or streetscape.

Replacement tree planting – replacing a tree that was removed with the same or similar species

Risk (trees) – made up of three components the likelihood of impact, the likelihood of failure and the consequences of impact.

Structural defect (tree) – feature, condition or deformity of a tree that indicates a weak structure or instability that could contribute to tree failure.

REPORT NO:	10.1
REPORT TITLE:	NOM24/19 - Cr Naim Kurt
SOURCE:	Hazel Finnie, Coordinator Arts, Culture and Events
DIVISION:	City Services & Living
FILE NO:	HCC24/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

Background Information:

1. Carols by Candlelight events are popular community events across Hume City. This is seen in the number of people who attend Council's annual Carols by Candlelight event in Craigieburn, as well as the community hosted Carols events held across the City each December, notably the Carols events organised by the Combined Churches in Sunbury and the Bulla CFA's very successful Carols event that was delivered in 2023 using funding from the Sunbury and Bulla Neighbourhood fund.

Prior to 2016, Council Carols were regularly hosted in Broadmeadows in the southern part of Hume, but since the establishment of Anzac Park, Council's Carols events have been moved to Craigieburn. The last Council Carols to be held in Broadmeadows was in 2014. The purpose of this motion is to investigate options and opportunities for the return of a Carols event to the Southern part of Hume for the first time in 10 years and how Council could support such an event. The intent would not be to duplicate the Craigieburn Carols, but for a smaller community carols event to be run at a local sporting oval in old Broady (Westmeadows) in a similar nature to the successful community carols event that was held in Bulla in late 2023.

2. **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council notes the success of local Carols by Candlelight events that are held across the City each year.

Directs officers to explore options for hosting or funding a small-scale Carols by Candlelight event in Westmeadows, including engagement and opportunities with local schools and emergency services, and provide a briefing report back to Council on the findings.

3. **OFFICER COMMENTS**

Carols by Candlelight events are popular in Hume City, with the annual attendance at Council's Carols by Candlelight event estimated to be 10,000 people.

The Event Grants program currently provides one avenue for community groups to apply for funding to host local Carols by Candlelight events. The Combined Churches in Sunbury regularly apply for funding for this purpose, and in 2023/24 were successful in obtaining \$15,000 to deliver their annual event.

In response to this Notice of Motion, Officers will explore options for a local Carols by Candlelight event in Westmeadows, including determining community interest in such an event. Once completed, Officers will provide a briefing report back to Council on the findings.

REPORT NO: 10.1 (cont.)

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REPORT NO:	10.2
REPORT TITLE:	NOM24/26 - Cr Joseph Haweil
SOURCE:	David Fricke, Manager Assets
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	HCC24/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

1. Background Information:

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the famous expedition of explorers Hamilton Hume and William Hovell from the Lake George district in Sydney's south to the area where present-day Geelong is situated. To mark the centenary of the expedition in 1924, a cairn was unveiled at Oaklands Road, Bulla near a site where Hume and Hovell camped in December 1824. Melbourne's Argus newspaper reported on 11 December 1924 that the memorial was unveiled at 4.30pm on Saturday 13 December 1924 and that: "at Bulla the earlier part of the day will be devoted to a picnic, in which five schools-Broadmeadows, Greenvale, Tullamarine, Keilor, and Bulla-will take part."

2. **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council writes to The Hon Melissa Horne MP, Minister for Roads and Road Safety seeking advice from VicRoads on the status of maintenance of the historical cairn erected in 1924 at Oaklands Road, Bulla commemorating explorers Hume and Hovell, while noting that 2024 marks the 200th anniversary of their expedition and resident advocacy for the restoration of the monument which is in a state of disrepair.

3. **OFFICER COMMENTS**

A letter will be written to The Hon. Melissa Horne MP, Minister for Roads and Road Safety.

REPORT NO: 10.2 (cont.)

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REPORT NO:	10.3
REPORT TITLE:	NOM24/27 - Cr Carly Moore
SOURCE:	Luke Maguire, Coordinator Sport and Recreation
DIVISION:	City Services & Living
FILE NO:	HCC24/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

Background information:

Hume City Council has a proud history of investment in quality, fit for purpose sporting reserves, facilities, and infrastructure for our community to participate in the grass roots sport of their choice as well as local accessibility to venues that support high performance talent pathways.

Facilities such as Highgate Recreation Reserve, Hume Tennis and Community Centre, John Ilhan Memorial Reserve, Greenvale Recreation Reserve and the recently completed State Rugby League and Community Centre are examples where Council has contributed with partners to develop state of the art facilities that provide opportunity for our community to realise their sporting aspirations.

While acknowledging that the terms of lease agreements governing these sites have often been negotiated with Council's funding partners, all new or renewed lease and license agreements for use of Hume sports facilities must clearly reflect provision for affordable accessibility and benefit to residents of Hume, including our local grassroots sporting clubs.

I want to ensure that the terms of all new and renewed agreements, including the application of hire fees and asset maintenance and renewal responsibilities, is applied consistently and equitably and are reflective of the considerable costs absorbed by Council in providing, maintaining, and renewing facilities.

1. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council directs officers to develop a framework to guide the consistent development and renewal of lease and license agreements for use of Hume sporting grounds, facilities and assets. The framework is to consider the community benefit and levels of community accessibility derived from agreements, equitable contributions toward the recoupment of maintenance and renewal investment and the equity of fees to be charged at differing facility types.

2. OFFICER COMMENTS

Council's Lease and License Policy is scheduled for renewal in 2024/25. The Sport Facility Leasing and Licensing Framework is being developed in unison as an appendix to the revised Policy.

Officers note the feedback from Councillors, and will include community benefit, accessibility and fee structure modeling in the scope for the Sport Facility Leasing and Licensing Framework.

Officers will prepare a briefing report to Council for review of the Lease and License Policy renewal with the inclusion of the draft Sport Facility Leasing and Licensing Framework principles.

REPORT NO: 10.3 (cont.)

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REPORT NO:	10.4
REPORT TITLE:	NOM24/28 - Cr Jim Overend
SOURCE:	Danielle Prentice, Manager Waste and Sustainability
DIVISION:	Infrastructure & Assets
FILE NO:	HCC24/688

I hereby request that pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Code of Conduct for Councillors that the following motion be included in the Agenda of the next Council Meeting.

Background Information:

Through discussions with local residents an area that needs greater attention is ensuring that anyone renting a house knows that they get access to all of Councils waste services.

Officers recently completed a forum with Retailers regarding shopping trolleys and their obligation in complying with Councils Local Law. This forum worked well and I'm proposing that a similar forum be completed with Real Estate Agents to talk about the waste services available to tenants. This approach would also be supported by a continued focus on waste communications to all households and the provision of waste information to real estate agents and new home owners to help enhance their awareness of Councils waste services and hopefully reduce the amount of dumped rubbish across Hume.

1. RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. Complete a forum inviting Real Estate Agents across Hume to discuss waste services and those that are available to both ratepayers and tenants. This forum will aim to increase awareness of the services that Council have available and support Real Estate Agents to provide this information to tenants to help reduce dumped rubbish.

2. Support this forum through the continued implementation of the Keep Hume Clean campaign and the provision of additional waste information to real estate agents and new home owners across Hume.

2. OFFICER COMMENTS

As part of the Keep Hume Clean campaign, Officers have considered a number of options to connect with a variety of stakeholder groups across Hume.

Following the success of the retailers forum, Officers support undertaking a similar forum with real estate agents. This forum will focus on providing education on the waste services available to tenants, in addition to new property owners and those departing.

A waste information package will be delivered to all Hume households (including tenants) over the next month. Officers will seek information from real estate agents and property managers at this forum on how best to provide this information to new tenants and residents

REPORT NO: 10.4 (cont.)

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