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Surf Coast Shire Ordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday, 23 July 2024 at 6pm

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CR PATTISON: So we've still got one minute. It's not until 6 o'clock. I appreciate everyone being so polite and waiting quietly, but we'll keep it to time because people have tuned in online. We don't want them to miss the start.

Hello. Good evening and welcome to our July Council meeting. I'm Mayor Liz Pattison and it's a pleasure to welcome members of the community joining us tonight at the Anglesea Memorial Hall for our final offsite meeting for 2024 and it's great there is such - for those that are watching online, we have a packed house here in Anglesea, so it's lovely that so many have come out for our Council meeting tonight.

The meeting is also being live streamed, so a big welcome to those tuning in online, and of course welcome to my fellow Councillors here tonight and to Councillor Gazzard - hello online - and Councillor Wellington, who will be joining us online tonight.

Live captioning will accompany the live stream of this meeting. We hope that this assists those who may have hearing difficulties.

I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered on Wadawurrung country and I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging. The First Peoples have nurtured and protected these lands and waterways for thousands of generations and I'm so grateful for the opportunity to live and work in such a beautiful part of the world. We also wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which each person is attending and acknowledge First Nations people who are viewing the meet tonight.

As always, we've had some really fantastic events take place across the shire over the past month. One highlight was the close to home Anglesea Trail Running Series, which saw almost 1,000 participants enjoy ideal conditions for the race on Sunday, 7 July. There were 4km races all the way going to 29km races starting at Anglesea main beach and it offered a mix of coastal trails, bush tracks, beaches, a few puddles and some creek crossings.

So that was great fun. I've enjoyed starting those in the past. They're really good events and it's a really positive and inclusive vibe at those events and they certainly showcase our trails and the diverse adventures you can have here in Anglesea.

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Another event highlight was the Biogan Bells Beach Longboard Classic, which took place just over the weekend from last Thursday to Saturday at Djarrak, Bells Beach. This is the second year the Surf Coast has hosted this event and it's the only event on the World Surf League Longboard Tour held in Australia, so very special to have those longboarders here at Bells.

An interesting fact - the first ever Bells Long Pro - well, it wasn't a pro then, but the first ever event then was on longboards, so it's great that we now have it coming back with a longboard event again. So the event opened on Thursday and we had a wonderful welcome to country from Corrina Eccles.

And now we'll move on to our agenda. So the process for our Council meetings is that they operate under our Governance Rules and they have the following procedures because some of you may not have watched or been part of our Council meetings before. So during the meeting, the mover of a motion or an amendment may speak for a maximum of 5 minutes to open the debate and then a further 2 minutes to make a closing statement. Any other Councillors, including the seconder, may speak to a motion for no more than 3 minutes.

I ask the members of the gallery to avoid using mobile phones during the meeting as it can be distracting for Councillors as well as other members of the gallery and I also note that any unauthorised recording of the meeting is prohibited under our Governance Rules, but you can access it online anyway, so it will be up on the website shortly after the meeting.

I'd now like to recite the Pledge as a sign of our commitment. As Councillors, we carry out our responsibilities with diligence and integrity and make fair decisions of lasting value for the wellbeing of our community and environment.

Apologies - do we have any apologies for tonight's meeting? No.

Confirmation of minutes - can I please have a mover and a seconder to confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 June 2024? Councillor Schonfelder - is that as per the recommendation? It is. And seconded? Thank you, Councillor Bodsworth. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

Do we have any leave of absence requests? No. And now declarations of conflicts of interest. If a Councillor or officer has a conflict of interest, they must declare it now. Do we have any conflicts of interest? No.

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Presentations - now, because we are in the Anglesea ward, we have the pleasure of a presentation from our ward Councillors. Would you like to start, Mike - Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Mayor. Sorry, is that on? A short presentation, so in no particular order. I'd like to recommend that people go and check out the Colour Exhibition, which is a new exhibition at the Anglesea Art Space, a fantastic exhibition that opened last Saturday, and I'd particularly like to commend the great work of Deb Elliot, who is the creative genius behind the colour theme; Cinnamon Stephens, who curated the exhibition; and Helen Gibbins, who's helped out in the arts space.

Another item that I want to update the community on is the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority land transfers. So the transfer of coastal crown land parcels from council management to Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority management is now complete. The most famous of those parcels was the Bells Beach, or Djarrak, reserve after 53 years of council management.

But a number of parcels in Anglesea have also been transferred, as people in this room would have been involved in, involving groups with crown land leases like the art house, bowls club, men's shed and tennis club, as well as groups operating activities on crown land under permits and licences. Council's allocation of resources to help local groups through this period of change has made a big difference, although some are still working through issues and we'll continue to help where required.

I can report on the completion of the netball pavilion. It's fairly old news now, but we still have upcoming some path and landscape works around the new netball pavilion and it's also to be followed, I'm glad to say, by redevelopment of the netball courts funded through Council's approved budget.

Finally, before I hand over to Councillor Stapleton, I'd like to plug the Angair Wildflower and Art weekend, 21 and 22 September - Angair, as most people would know, was established in 1969 - and also I'd like to note that the Angair Nature Show provides similar content online via the website angairnatureshow.org.au and I highly recommend checking that out. It's fantastic. So over to my colleague.

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CR STAPLETON: Thanks, Councillor Bodsworth. So I'd like to provide a quick update on some things from the other part of the ward in Aireys Inlet, where Council has been working on a social and affordable housing project with the community for the past couple of years. This has been such a positive project to be involved with and some may recall that back in May this year Council endorsed the community co-designed concept plan for the site at Fraser Drive which sits alongside the community garden in Aireys Inlet.

The garden committee has already been in contact with our selected housing provider, Housing Choices Australia, about potential garden projects that may be able to be supported as part of this development and there seems to be a really collaborative relationship developing. They've also been looking at the role the garden can play in creating public-private transition spaces between the garden and the housing and further supporting community cohesion.

Community consultation on the proposed lease arrangement for this site has just concluded seeking feedback on a 50-year lease to Housing Choices Australia for the development of the social and affordable housing and Council and Housing Choices Australia have signed a heads of agreement which establishes this intention. I'm really looking forward to seeing how the next stages of this project unfold.

Still in Aireys Inlet, a big shoutout to the Aireys Inlet Rural Australians for Refugees, otherwise known as AIRAR, on their tenth birthday milestone this week as they continue their great quest to help refugees and people seeking asylum in Australia. AIRAR will be celebrating this milestone with a special dinner at the Anglesea pub this Friday night with guest speaker Romy Vitalien to speak about progress to date of the community refugee and settlement pilot project, which has already seen two refugee families resettled in Aireys Inlet. Past and present members are invited to join AIRAR to mark this wonderful milestone and anyone interested in still purchasing tickets can contact Mary Bremner at AIRAR directly.

Finally, just a quick shoutout for two regular events that are held here at the hall which are created by community and for community. The first is The Sound Doctor, which many of us know and love, and it continues to bring some of the world's best talent to our town. I know how appreciative many in our community are to have live music like this presented on our doorstep every month or so.

I understand tickets are flying out the door for Dan Sultan's two shows in September, so for anyone out there who's interested, you'd better get in quick.

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And my final comment is about the 2024 Environmental Film Series, which is being presented by SCEG, the Surf Coast Energy Group, here at the Anglesea Memorial Hall each month on the second Tuesday of the month. It kicked off in May and runs through to October. I definitely encourage people to get along to one or more of these films. I was fortunate to attend one in May called The Seeds of Vandana Shiva, which was so inspiring, and the film is generally followed by a panel discussion about the topic of choice and the community gets to enjoy a delicious home-made supper afterwards. It's a really lovely event and there's different screenings each month. So well done to SCEG and all involved for helping to keep our community connected and supporting people who are passionate about making the world around them more sustainable. And that's it from me, Mayor. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Well, thank you to our ward Councillors for a bit of a wrap-up of what's going on in the Anglesea ward. We now move on to submissions and we don't have any submissions, so the next item on our agenda is public question time.

So I know that there are some items on tonight's agenda that our community are really passionate about and that is reflected in the public questions. The public question process - it's a very important part of our meetings and we do have a lot of questions tonight, which is really great. We're so happy that people have taken the time to put in their questions.

So the process for this is that when I call out your name, you're invited to come up to the table and read out your question, which will be answered by either myself, our CEO, or one of the other officers. I note that we have 10 community members who have submitted 17 questions tonight and therefore, in the interests of time, we will be sticking just to those questions. So I'll ask you to read your question and we'll respond and we'll leave it at that.

If you have any additional questions which have not been submitted in advance, please feel free to put these in writing and give them to one of our Council staff, our Governance team, and Council staff commit to get back to you within five days on those questions, and I note that there's lots of ways that you can get in touch with Council if you were planning on asking an additional question and so we will continue to engage with you however you approach us and contact us with that information. So thanks so much for your understanding because we have such a big agenda for tonight and we're really looking forward to working through it with you all.

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So we now move on to our first question, which is from Jim Tutt. Jim, would you like to come up and read your question? Thank you.

JIM TUTT: Madam Mayor, Councillors, why hasn't the Surf Coast Shire contacted the relevant State Government ministers to enlist their support for making the necessary changes to Anglesea's town boundary and land zonings so that the 2018 Alcoa Strategic Plan for future use of its freehold land for a variety of housing opportunities could deliver the now 2024 needed affordable housing instead of excising land in the hub that is highly valued and used for community activities?

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question, Jim. The hub is something, or the Anglesea - you know, it's something that we're considering shortly on our agenda, so our CEO will be responding to your question.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Hi, Jim. Thank you for your question and we really do appreciate the discussion that's happening in the community about the options for housing more broadly. We need those discussions. We know that there's a housing shortage in Anglesea, particularly for more affordable accommodation to support our workers, so we're really appreciative of that work the community are doing to identify alternative housing opportunities.

We are prioritising the Anglesea Community and Health Hub Precinct because Council owns the land and can therefore directly influence the outcome of that. But, having said that, there are maybe some other opportunities, but the Alcoa land that you're referring to has some complexities associated with it that don't make it as straightforward as just building housing. So as you mentioned, the Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework is currently the planning policy and it was prepared by the State Government. The framework doesn't recommend changes to the town boundary and specifies rural living land in the Betleigh Street area.

Alcoa has expressed, as we know, an alternative view for the residential and affordable housing as a possibility in this area in their own plan. It's interesting because the other thing that's being worked on at the moment by State Government level is the Great Ocean Road Strategic Framework Plan and this will provide an overarching regional view of land use planning for the Great Ocean Road region and so that presents some potential opportunities for all of us in that space to think about land use along the coast, which it will be

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put out for consultation and we'll all have an opportunity to have input into that, so that could be useful.

Any process to reconsider the Anglesea Futures Framework would need to consider a range of some of the issues and complexities that we know with that area, not the least being the bushfire risk, and that would be led by State Government, but there would be consultation, as you quite rightly say, with Council and also with Alcoa around that.

In relation to the Anglesea hub, this is definitely a precinct that is highly valued by the community and plays a really important role in providing community uses and we've heard that really loudly and really clearly as part of this process. But as I mentioned earlier, it is a Council-owned site and it enables Council to consider providing housing in a central area and integrated into important community facilities.

The housing proposed on the site that will be considered by Councillors tonight takes up less than 12% of the total site and the vast majority of the site would still be available for those really important community uses. But thank you for your question.

JIM TUTT: Thank you, Madam Mayor. Thank you, Councillors.

CR PATTISON: Our next question is from Colin McDonald. Colin, are you present? Thank you.

COLIN McDONALD: Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, Councillors.

CR PATTISON: Colin, if you could just read out both of your questions together, that would be great.

COLIN McDONALD: Okay. At a public meeting in Anglesea on 29 June, a letter from the site manager was read restating Alcoa's 2018 position re affordable housing, I quote, "Residential and affordable land use should be reconsidered for the Betleigh Street/Wilkins Street area. Alcoa remains open to discussion." Have Council officers been in discussion with Alcoa over this site other than to roll over the lease for the bike park? The second part - given the quoted paucity of opportunities for affordable housing developments within Anglesea, why not?

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CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question, Colin, and once again, our CEO will respond to this one.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Colin. Thanks for your questions. We have been in touch with Alcoa and as I expressed earlier, we know that Alcoa's position is that there is land that could be used in another way than what is currently in the Anglesea Futures Strategy. Alcoa have said to us that their focus is on the mine and the power station rehabilitation at this point in time, that that's their focus, and as I mentioned in relation to Jim's question, there is some complexities with being able to use that land for anything other than rural living at this point and that will take some time and processes to see whether or not State Government has an appetite to change those policies, not the least being the township boundary and the bushfire risk and managing the bushfire risk in that area.

So we're definitely open to considering other options, but our focus is tonight on this site given Council has capacity to make a decision in relation to this site, but we need more opportunities for affordable housing in Anglesea, so we are interested in understanding those opportunities and working with community around those. But thank you for your question.

CR PATTISON: Thanks, Colin. Rick Whitelaw, are you here to ask your question? Thanks, Rick. And if you could read both of your questions, that would be wonderful.

RICK WHITELOW: Sure. My two questions - why are the Council voting on endorsement of a draft concept plan that has so many defects as identified and advised by so many Anglesea residents? The second question - why should only the Council be involved in endorsement of the draft concept plan and not the whole of the Anglesea community?

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question and given that we'll be voting on this one, our CEO will be responding to your question.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks for your questions, Rick, and I want to be really clear, we know that there's a diversity of views around this decision that Council will be making tonight and there are many of you here who are really concerned about the housing being on this site and there are others who are very supportive of the housing being on this site. It is a very - there are very diverse and strong views on either side in relation to this issue and we thank

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you for your correspondence that you've provided to Councillors and also to officers in relation to this precinct.

Our data tells us there's been strong community interest. We know that in the seven months since we've been working on this project we've had 3,000 unique visitors to our website and the page particularly relating to this project and over 1,000 downloads of the draft concept plan. So if you think about the population of Anglesea, 1,000 downloads is a third of the population in Anglesea.

The project has involved extensive community engagement to ensure that it has been informed by a broad range of community views, including via the community co-design process. There's been strong participation in the latest engagement, as I was kind of talking about before, and the overall survey feedback has actually really strongly supported the vision and the design principles and the majority of the components of the concept plan. In addition, we've been talking regularly with user groups and they have all expressed support for the proposed location of where they would be housed as part of the precinct work.

All the work and the various community views are summarised in the engagement report, which hopefully you've all seen. It is Council's job to try to gauge the views of people on issues and to consider relevant data and information and then, as elected representatives, make a decision on behalf of all of you, the community. The community was asked what it thought of the concept plan and there's been really significant community engagement, including surveys, responses, submissions providing key information to assist Council tonight in making its decision. But thank you for your question.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Geoff Lewtas, would you like to come - are you here to read your question?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: No, Geoff is away on holidays.

CR PATTISON: Alright, I'll read Geoff's. So Geoff Lewtas from Anglesea and it's with regards to the hub. I'll read their question: "When will the two Otway Ward Councillors, Mike Bodsworth and Libby Stapleton, support the wishes of their Anglesea constituents and vote for housing to be removed from the hub precinct concept plan as made absolutely clear by the majority of ratepayers in attendance at the Preserve Anglesea Community Hub public meeting at the Memorial Hall on 29 June 2024?" I'll pass this one to our CEO.

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MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Geoff. I hope you're having a lovely holiday. I believe you're in New Zealand, I think.

Given Councillors need to make a decision on the concept plan tonight, I'll answer on their behalf. There were five of our Councillors, including Councillors Bodsworth and Stapleton, at the PACH meeting on 29 June to hear community views on the proposed hub. As mentioned, there was significant community engagement, also led by Council, and we've heard a range of views which are documented in the community engagement report included in the meeting agenda. All views, including those of the Preserve Anglesea Community Hub group members, have been included in the report to Council for their consideration. Councillors have also received all the copies of the pro forma submissions that we've received over the last few weeks, but thank you, Geoff, and enjoy your holiday.

CR PATTISON: Peter McGain, would you like to read your question?

PETER MCGAIN: The Local Government Act 2020 Part 2, Councils Role, Section 9, "Overarching governance principles and supporting principles", clause 2(b) states "priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations". So my question: is Council about to contravene this principle by excising community precinct land for housing, thus denying future generations of Anglesea residents and visitors with the necessary space and opportunities for recreational and socialising activities?

CR PATTISON: We can respond to that one and then move on to the next question.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Peter. Thank you for your question and I do understand the point that you're making. As officers, we believe that we developed a plan with a strong focus on the future. The idea of the precinct plan is to support the community as it evolves over the next 30 years and meets its needs now and into the future and we believe the site has capacity to accommodate a range of community and health uses, open space and also housing.

When we analyse the recreational and social infrastructure needs for Anglesea, we don't just look at this one site. We look at all the places and spaces in the town. We look at the demographic projections and plan so that future needs of the community can be met. This leads us to the conclusion that it is

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possible to meet the needs of modern community spaces as well as addressing a small part of the demand for affordable accommodation here at McMillan Street.

PETER McGAIN: My second question: have the consultants employed been negligent in not considering the statutory requirements - eg, fire and ambulance access and minimum parking requirements - when developing the concept plan, thus rendering the proposal for housing non-achievable?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Peter. The consultants that we engage we don't believe have been negligent. They've provided professional urban design, architectural and traffic advice relevant to the concept plan stage. It isn't - we're not at detailed design. It is purely concept planning phase of the project at this point. And we're confident that the access requirements for emergency vehicles can be provided and negotiated with all the relevant agencies if we move into detailed design, depending on the outcome of the decision Council will make tonight.

The detailed design matters such as the emergency access are relevant things to work through in that detailed design phase and we'd work through the relevant agencies and all of the right kind of channels to ensure that we can meet those requirements and all of the advice is that we should be able to do that.

In terms of parking, the concept plan can provide for the current rate of community parking spaces provided in the precinct along with parking for any future housing. That should be fine. We don't anticipate there will be any issues with that.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Peter, for your question. Ron Canale, would you like to read your question? Thanks, Ron.

RON CANALE: Maybe my questions aren't relevant any longer after the questions we got tonight, but I'd just like to point out one thing.

SPEAKER: Use the microphone.

CR PATTISON: Sit because there are people that are being live streamed. They won't be able to hear you unless you're speaking into the microphone.

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RON CANALE: There's one thing I'd like to make a point about. You've reflected back to us the things you've done to prove your point. In actual fact, you're right out of touch. You know the voting we had here two weeks ago in this room? The community is - if it's not well in favour of the retention of this site without housing in it, it's cut down the middle. It's a divisive policy.

CR PATTISON: Thanks, Ron. Do you have a question you'd like to ask of us?

RON CANALE: No.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. I appreciate you putting your point forward. We now move on to Michelle Sherman. Thanks, Michelle.

MICHELLE SHERMAN: Good evening, everyone. Again, my question has probably been answered a little with the previous ones. My question was: considering around 90% of the community at a recent community forum opposed the inclusion of social housing at the McMillan Street Community Hub, why are Council still continuing to push for it to be included? I know it's been touched on.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. I'll pass that one to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Michelle, and I just want to clarify one point. What we're proposing through this plan is not social housing, it's affordable housing for local workers, and there is a difference.

CR PATTISON: I'll ask everyone to remain respectful, please, while we respond to the question. Thank you.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Social housing is developed to take tenants from State Government's waiting list. Our proposal is to provide housing for local workers to help local businesses and services.

The forum that you were talking about for the Preserve Anglesea Community Hub group was opposed to the proposed concept plan and the meeting was not a Council-organised community forum and based on our survey data, not all the views that were represented that afternoon are what is how the community feels for that.

CR PATTISON: I'll ask you to please be respectful so our CEO can respond to the question.

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MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: The Council report includes a lot of information on community feedback. The community engagement report, it's quite an extensive report. It both represents the submission that PACH has made and the petition, but also the broader views that we've heard from community, and that includes the pro forma letters from PACH as well as the petition.

So we've tried through this process to ensure that Councillors have all of the information around the variety of views that the community have expressed and provided to us as part of the work we've done in this space. But thank you for your question.

MICHELLE SHERMAN: Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We now move on to a question from Ian Stewart from Torquay.

IAN STEWART: Good evening, Councillors and senior staff. My question - I've obviously got to keep to the point. My first question is residents have been in discussion with Mind Australia and Homes Victoria seeking information on the development at 26 Silvereye Street in Torquay which is a 12-unit mental health facility opposite the state school and to date, neither party has provided any relevant information to residents. This lack of information is fuelling the concerns in the community.

My question is: will Council assist the residents in obtaining relevant information from Mind Australia and Homes Victoria to try and reduce the fears in the community? Mind Australia and Homes Victoria will not provide the community with detailed information on the development, including their risk assessments. Will Council assist the residents in obtaining this information, including risk assessments, site criteria from these organisations?

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Ian, for your question, and this is an operational matter that our officers have been working on, so I'll pass it to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Mayor, I might ask - because our General Manager of Community Life has been doing a lot of the work with Mind and Haven, I might ask him to respond to your question, Ian.

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: Yes, thanks for the question, Ian, and I understand the concerns that have been raised from community members and I can talk a bit

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about what we have been doing and what we will continue to do and yes, we will continue to try and keep that information coming through from Mind Australia and Homes Victoria.

IAN STEWART: To residents?

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: To residents, yes. So we have advocated to Mind Australia for several months on getting that information and communication with community members. Senior officers, and I've been part of that, have regularly asked Mind to continue to answer the questions that are being raised.

We will continue to communicate with Mind Australia and provide advice on the importance of good information for community members. We're not sure that all the things you've listed will be provided, I can't answer that on Mind's behalf, but we will try to get to a more satisfactory result for you and others interested in this project.

IAN STEWART: Hopefully so because obviously we haven't been successful to date. My second question is: residents are aware of Mind Australia having undertaken an assessment of land in Torquay for a future development. When did Council officers first have discussions with Mind Australia (Haven Foundation) or its representatives (architect, planner, designer, etc) on the possible location of a community care/big build development in Torquay, including the site at 26 Silvereye Street, Torquay?

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Once again, I'll pass that to our officers. Damian.

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: Yes, thank you, Madam Mayor. Thanks again, Ian. So in May 2022, Council was first contacted by a representative of Mind Australia to discuss the relevant planning controls that apply and then Council was asked in May 2023 to issue a certificate of compliance for the proposal and the certificate of compliance is to confirm that the proposal meets the requirements of clause 52.22 of the Planning Scheme for community care accommodation and that a planning permit was not required for this type of accommodation. It's exempt from a planning permit process. The certificate of compliance was not a merits-based assessment of the proposal or its location. The certificate of compliance was issued in August 2023.

IAN STEWART: So is that on the site at Silvereye or on other sites in Torquay?

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: 26 Silvereye.

IAN STEWART: So did they ask for any other sites in Torquay?

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: Not that I'm aware of.

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question, Ian.

IAN STEWART: No worries, thank you.

CR PATTISON: Our next question is from Naomi Stewart. Are you here, Naomi?

NAOMI STEWART: Good evening, Councillors and officers. Firstly, I'd just like to put in an apology for all the residents that were unable to make it here tonight that would have liked to have been part of this.

Okay, my first question: last month I mentioned about whether anyone had visited this block during school pick-up time. I understand that at least one Councillor has visited - thank you. Now I am officially inquiring whether other Councillors and officers have actually seen for themselves firsthand, particularly at 3pm weekdays, when children are leaving the school? If so, are you concerned with the traffic and safety for the good of the children and the community enough to advocate for relocation or, if not, what do you propose to do to alleviate there being issues in the future?

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question, Naomi. I have been there at 3 o'clock to have a look, but once again, it's more of an operational matter, so I'll pass it to our CEO to respond.

NAOMI STEWART: Okay.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Hi, Naomi. I've also been there around 3 o'clock and seen all of the kids coming out of school and all of the parents waiting to pick up the kids --

NAOMI STEWART: Many unsupervised.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes, I've seen them coming out on their bikes and walking home, absolutely. We understand that it is a really busy time of day when school finishes up along there and we take the safety of our community and our children really seriously and we do have responsibility for some

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aspects of the public safety around the site during and after the construction and this will extend to things like on-street parking, noise and amenity of the building site itself while it's being constructed. As part of taking community safety seriously, we also liaise with partner agencies who have other safety and amenity responsibilities and will continue to do this after Haven Torquay is established.

CR PATTISON: Would you like to read your second question?

NAOMI STEWART: Yes. As Councillors would be aware from an email sent to them on 12 July this year, we received a letter from Homes Victoria on 9 July 2024 in response to raising concerns with a number of MPs. It appears this letter and the Haven Foundation Torquay flyer are contradictory, quote, "The homes at Silvereye Street, Torquay will support Victorians who need social housing. They are not a mental health facility." Yet the flyer from Mind Australia states "have enduring mental health and wellbeing concerns". We have tried through Freedom of Information to DFFH to get a copy of the application since August 2023 to date. Can Council advise what their understanding is for this facility for the safety and wellbeing of the children and the community?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks again for your question and I think it is confusing. I'm not sure that it's contradictory, but I agree with you it's not very clear.

Our understanding is that Haven Torquay is community care accommodation, not a mental health facility, and I think that's the point of difference. So it is designed to provide long-term supported housing for people with mental health and wellbeing concerns and this type of housing is a category of the social housing funded under the Social Housing Growth Fund as part of the Big Housing Build. I was on the website today trying to understand this so I could respond to your question and so my reading of it is that if you look on the website, it shows a range of forms of accommodation that are funded under the Social Housing Fund.

NAOMI STEWART: Not for Torquay, read the flyer, and also --

CR PATTISON: I think our CEO is talking about the Big Housing Build and the criteria.

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MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: I'm talking about the Social Housing Growth Fund, which is the community housing which is available and is considered social housing for adults and children escaping family violence. These are the funding streams under that program for social housing - adults and children escaping family violence, older women, Aboriginal Victorians, people with disabilities, people experiencing mental illness, and people on low incomes. So the social housing that's provided by a not-for-profit is considered community housing and so that's where I think it's confusing in terms of the correspondence you've received between Haven and Homes Victoria.

NAOMI STEWART: Well, I don't think it's confusing. The Haven model is for having enduring mental health and wellbeing concerns. Allan Fels, the Chair, wrote in the Surf Coast Times about his daughter having schizophrenia and other things and that's why he sort of started it. The indication is that the majority of people that would be in this particular facility would be having schizophrenia and other severe things.

CR PATTISON: And we are not contradicting that. We agree with you in that, yes.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: The housing, it's not a facility. It's supported accommodation and it is for people with mental health issues.

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question, Naomi. We appreciate you coming in and asking it of us.

NAOMI STEWART: Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Our next question is from Jannine Rigby from Torquay.

JANNINE RIGBY: Thanks, Mayor and Councillors. Some of it may have been addressed. Do you want me to read both or one at a time?

CR PATTISON: One at a time.

JANNINE RIGBY: Okay, question 1, the information on the Victorian Social Housing Planning website states that regardless of exemptions under clause 52.20, community engagement is required. It is contended that the required consultation by the Minister for Planning may not have occurred as stipulated for any Big Housing Build projects. It is my understanding that the following requirements apply to this scenario: the delivery of a confirming letter from

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DFFH for the Haven facility project to the Surf Coast Shire Council; consultation with Council by the Minister for Planning, as required, as well as consultation with the community; contact from Homes Victoria to Council as part of a pre-application process. So my question is, could Council please confirm which code applies, eg, Big Build or Social Community, and the relevant code numbers, and advise whether the above steps took place, including information regarding any role that Council played in this process and the dates which these steps took place?

CR PATTISON: Thanks for your question. Once again, it's quite an operational specific matter, so I'll pass that to our officers to respond.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thank you, Jannine. So this project is funded specifically by, as I was mentioning to Naomi, the Social Housing Growth Fund, which falls within the Big Housing Build Program. This is a Victorian Government grant scheme to build more homes for Victorians facing challenges in finding safe and affordable accommodation, including people living with mental illness that require ongoing support.

Under the Planning Scheme, it is not actually clause 52.20, but clause 52.22 that applies. This clause seeks to facilitate the establishment of Community Care Accommodation, which is how the proposal is defined. So I'm not sure - that might help Naomi as well.

The clause specifically exempts the project from requiring a permit and therefore there are no consultation requirements at a local level. Council has been asked to confirm that the proposal meets the requirements of clause 52.22 and has done so, issuing a certificate of compliance on 22 August 2023. Council is not able to assess the merits of the proposal in this location as part of that process.

JANNINE RIGBY: Yes, thank you. Question 2 - this question relates to amenity of car parking. Clause 53.20-6.9 sets out a range of design standards for car parking design. The design standards recognise that the physical layout and design of a car park will often be critical to its technical and streetscape success. How will the current onsite parking be sufficient for 12 residents who may own a motor vehicle and how will street parking be adequate given the current street design and school parking need in Silvereye Street?

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that one to our CEO to respond.

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MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Jannine. So the advice we've had is that the number of spaces is considered satisfactory to meet the demand for parking generated by people accessing and working at the property. We've also been advised that residents won't have their own cars, therefore reducing the need and demand for parking spaces. But having heard from community a number of times now around the concerns around parking, we'll go back to Mind and we'll raise the issue with them again in relation to parking and the concerns community have in relation to parking.

JANNINE RIGBY: I think that would be good because I think it's been highlighted tonight that under this social community housing project 52.22 we're actually saying that there is a range of people that can live in these facilities. So if we do accept that they're not going to be all people with severe mental health and they could be other such type of people, I would expect that they would have a car and being a registered psychiatric nurse myself, I can attest that psychiatric patients have the right to actually own and drive a car.

So, as such, I would really encourage Council to look at this. Just looking at the basic measures of the planning that I've seen, I really don't think it's adequate for the number of people that will be in the facility, so anything that you could do in that regard, because I think it is really important about the streetscape and we all know that Silvereye is an exceptionally narrow street and there's already a yellow line marked down the side. So I would be grateful if you could look into that.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Sure.

CR PATTISON: Thank you.

JANNINE RIGBY: Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Well, that brings us to the end of our public question time. So I appreciate everybody being respectful and listening to those questions that were put forward and we appreciate those people that have taken the time to come and read their questions.

So we now have a procedural motion to move an item forward in the agenda because we know many of you are here for some of the items that are on the agenda and we'd like to bring them forward so that they can be heard while

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you're all here and you stay interested. So do we have anyone that has a procedural motion to move forward? Yes, Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: Thanks, Mayor. As you said, given the community interest in item 4.1 on our agenda, which is the Anglesea Community Hub Project, can I please move a procedural motion that this agenda item be moved forward to be considered immediately after item 2.1, which is the petition relating to the same issue.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, and do I have a seconder for this? Thank you, Councillor Hodge. It's just a procedural motion, so we just go straight to the vote. So all those in favour. And the motion is passed unanimously.

So we now move on to Petitions. So the first is 2.1, Petition titled 'The Anglesea and Community Health Hub Housing Plan'. We've received two petitions for this meeting. The first petition relates to the Anglesea and Community Health Hub Housing Plan. I would like to note that as we are shortly considering the Anglesea Hub item on the agenda, it has been recommended that we consider this petition as part of our deliberations on that item. This is a little different to the recommendation we normally see with petitions, which often includes a requirement for a report to be returned within three months for Council to make a decision. But we will be considering it when we consider the requirement later in the agenda at 4.1.

So we have a recommendation before us. Does anybody want to move a motion? Councillor Bodsworth - is it as per the recommendation?

CR BODSWORTH: Yes, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, and seconded by Councillor Stapleton. Would you like to speak to that, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Not really, Mayor, only that we received the petition as per the recommendation.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Stapleton, would you like to speak?

CR STAPLETON: No, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Would any Councillors like to speak to receiving this petition? Councillor Schonfelder?

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CR SCHONFELDER: I would like to, Mayor, thank those who signed the petition and just make one comment that it's my understanding that a quite varied part of the community as far as ages and demographics signed the petition, not just elderly people, as has been purported. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. I'm happy to see this petition conforms to our Governance Rules. What that means is that we've got a whole set of rules that dictate how petitions are supposed to come to Council. We often get petitions received that don't conform to this Governance Rule, but Council often accepts them. The only thing is that they generally align with the direction that Council has.

This petition is opposing a direction of Council and I think it's important that we take this feedback on. As has been discussed, there's a whole range of views in this room, but democracy is all about the majority and based on the engagement that I've had with the community, I think it's clear that the majority are opposed to housing on this site and I think it's important that we take that on.

Now, having a look at the area tonight, it's clear there's obvious need for some maintenance around the place. But with the current proposal, I think it will result, one, in an unaffordable project, which is a concern, but it will dramatically impact the provision of medical services --

CR PATTISON: Just to clarify, Councillor Barker, we're just talking about the petition and tabling the petition.

CR BARKER: It's all relevant. Welcome.

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I just had a question. It's a request. When I spoke, I was very rudely interrupted by Councillor Stapleton and I ask --

CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, we --

CR SCHONFELDER: -- Mayor, that you ask other Councillors to please be respectful tonight.

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CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, we can't interrupt when others are speaking. I was just clarifying a point with Councillor Barker. So are you finished speaking, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: I'll have more to say later, thank you.

CR PATTISON: Great. I'll take your comment on board, thank you, Councillor Schonfelder. Councillor Wellington, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR WELLINGTON: Thanks. I will reserve most of what I want to say until later, but I'd just like to say in relation to the petition - first of all, can I ask can I be properly heard in the room?

CR BARKER: It's a bit muffled.

CR PATTISON: I think it's reasonable, Councillor Wellington. It's a little bit muffled. We can try putting the volume up a little. Can people hear the audio?

CR WELLINGTON: I've had feedback from people when I've joined by Zoom that it's difficult to hear, so I'll do my best to speak --

CR PATTISON: I think that our wonderful tech team have done a bit of finessing and I think it's pretty good now, so if you'd like to speak.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. I'd like to make the point that regardless of - this is quite a large number of signatures for a small community such as Anglesea, particularly at this time of year when a lot of people who are very active in this community over the summer might not necessarily be, you know, around.

I think it just makes the point, regardless of what the numbers are one way or another, this is not a vote, it's not a referendum. It's a very clear signal to the Council that there is substantial dissent around this issue in the Anglesea community. So I think - along the lines of what a couple of others have said, I think regardless of whether it's 250 or 300 or 400 signatures, or whatever, it's significant particularly in this context and we need to consider it carefully. Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. Actually, Councillor Wellington has just dropped off. Are you there,

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Councillor Wellington? Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously. So that's to receive the petition. Thank you to those that took the time to put that together.

We now move on to 4.1, Anglesea Community and Health Hub Concept Plan. Just so you're aware, Councillor Wellington, when you take your camera off, you're no longer showing up on the screen, so just so I know that you're around, it would be great if you could leave your camera on, thank you.

As Council resolved earlier tonight to change the order of business to be considered tonight, we will now move on to consider agenda item 4.1. The purpose of this report is to inform Council on the findings of the community codesign process and engagement process for the draft Concept Plan for the Anglesea Community and Health Hub and seek Council's endorsement of a concept plan and next steps for the project. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Bodsworth - is that as per the recommendation?

CR BODSWORTH: Yes, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Stapleton. Would you like to speak, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: I would like to speak, thank you, Mayor. Firstly, I'd like to start by thanking all those who've engaged and shared their views. The concept before us reflects diverse input, including criticism and rigorous questioning that has undoubtedly improved it. Given heritage and future are both so pertinent here, I've been very pleased to see the level of engagement across generations.

I acknowledge that aspects of the concept, particularly the proposal for affordable rental housing, are strongly opposed by some in our community. I've heard and understood the arguments and I respect the right of objectors to mount them. I have a great affection for this precinct and, like others, I'm determined to preserve its community value and unique character. If all the scary stories being told were based on fact, I'd be up in arms too, but they're not all based on fact, as those who've read the agenda papers thoroughly will have seen. In my judgment, based on the information before us, this concept plan deserves the support of Councillors and community --

CR WELLINGTON: Mayor Pattison, the audio - sorry to interrupt, but the audio just broke off completely for about half a minute.

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CR PATTISON: I think it's fine for us here. So Councillor Wellington, if you'd like to message - have you got Messenger up or could you contact Governance if that happens again because for those in the room and all our microphones are working. But it's important that you can hear it as well, so if you could - sorry, you're now on mute, Councillor Wellington.

CR WELLINGTON: May I ask whether Councillor Gazzard lost the audio as well?

CR GAZZARD: Yes, it cut out for me as well.

CR PATTISON: It cut out for you as well. Okay. If you can continue, Councillor Bodsworth, that would be great, thank you.

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. In my judgment, based on the information before us, this concept plan deserves the support of Councillors and community. The deliberative engagement and co-design approach that underpins the plan should be commended too.

Given this precinct combines unique heritage values and sense of place with critical and evolving functional needs, I'm pleased that a balance of constancy and change is one of the hallmarks of the concept. It recognises important things we heard through community engagement, such as that people like the way buildings are slightly scattered with open and social spaces in between in preference to one big new all-purpose hub building. But several user groups don't want to risk losing some of the magic of their current facilities and see years of volunteer work upended and prefer to stay as they are.

But colocation of community house activity spaces, childcare and early learning offers exciting opportunities for intergenerational exchange, functionality and adaptability to future needs. It also proposes important changes to make the precinct work, feel and look better.

One change is the reorganisation of driveways and parking, freeing up space, while offering parking capacity roughly equal to the present. Another is a green heart of linked spaces between buildings with connections between interior and exterior spaces. Events like twilight markets, Angair show, movie club and Sound Doctor will enliven and be enlivened by those spaces.

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This conceptual stage is largely about the allocation of space meeting user needs and arranging uses and built elements to prioritise landscape and provide great spaces for community activities. An important point is that this precinct, at over 1.7 hectares, can comfortably accommodate community uses and housing. The inclusion of housing will not displace community users, compromise functionality, crowd out open space, or prevent future improvement.

The area allocated to affordable rental housing in this concept is roughly 2000 square metres out of a total of 17000. That's half the amount that's currently zoned residential that was historically occupied by housing and also intended for future housing. It's a modest allocation, one-eighth of the precinct, enough to make a difference to housing availability, but not enough to diminish community value. Anyway, the binary of community or housing is false. Affordable housing driven by local needs and purposefully managed is all about strong and sustainable communities.

While other potential housing locations are being considered, here Council owns the land and can lease it at low cost to a housing provider, enabling them to provide high-quality, secure, affordable rental accommodation for people with local families, social networks and jobs. The land remains in Council ownership and housing cannot be traded or sublet. An agreement between Council and the housing provider provides a process and quality assurance for tenant selection and property development and management.

Looking again at the allocation of space, note that 5000 square metres, or a third of the precinct, is currently allocated to roads and parking, more than to community and health combined. When most of that land sits unused most of the time and when so many precinct users live within a short walk or ride, I'd argue that it's a wasteful use of precious public land.

Happily, we can skip that argument because this concept frees up space and achieves a roughly equivalent parking capacity to present simply by using space more thoughtfully and economically, but it's worth asking is it really okay for 5000 square metres to be set aside for people's cars to sit in, but not okay for 2000 to be set aside to provide secure, affordable rental housing for essential workers, people who will teach our kids or grandkids, look after our health, keep our visitor economy humming, care for the coast and parks --

CR PATTISON: Governance, can we have an extension of time for two minutes, please? It's an important matter, so we'll be flexible with the time.

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CR BODSWORTH: Thank you, Mayor - care for the coast and parks, blow our minds with their arts and creativity and shore up our natural disaster resilience?

I've really enjoyed and appreciated the work of co-design group members and precinct user groups and their commitment, creativity and good faith through some challenging conversations, but I've seen some shameful behaviour too - coercion and aggression, arrogance, threats, misinformation, scaremongering and stigmatising, intolerance of different views, walking out of meetings, drowning out and blocking other voices. As a community, we need to be able to disagree agreeably and to be open to others' points of view, able to disagree, but stay friends, good neighbours, work or play together and stand by each other.

I've been buoyed to see younger people engage with this project, but deflated to see their preferences dismissed and views disrespected. The engagement report shows how preferences differ across generations. I want to acknowledge that the precinct's immediate neighbours have a particularly direct and sensitive exposure to these proposed changes. I understand that this is close to home for you.

This concept deserves our support. It's founded on a fair, creative and rigorous process. It respects heritage and the future equally. It preserves community space, but rearranges some of it for the better. It represents a better, higher-value use of this precious public land. Thank you and I'm looking forward to hearing your perspectives.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Thank you, Councillor Bodsworth. Councillor Stapleton, would you like to speak?

CR STAPLETON: I'd like to reserve my right to speak, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor Pattison, I'd like to speak, please, and I would like to request that I not be interrupted and I'd like to firstly say that with Councillor Bodsworth when he was referring to conduct, I actually thought he was referring to what was happening this evening when I was rudely interrupted earlier and I haven't sought an apology

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because, sadly enough, since I've been elected Councillor, I've been interrupted constantly at briefings and silenced and I have been mistreated --

CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder --

CR SCHONFELDER: -- but I have remained silent about that.

CR PATTISON: -- can you --

CR SCHONFELDER: I don't think I will in future. But you're interrupting me again, Mayor, so I will get to the matter at hand.

CR PATTISON: Speak to the motion at hand, please, Councillor Schonfelder.

CR SCHONFELDER: I think it's important to be honest, though, Mayor.

I'd just like to say that PACH has advocated that the precinct is for community facilities and service providers, not housing. I did vote in February to have housing as part of this precinct, but over time I've learnt that there are so many people who are opposed to the housing proposal and, in particular, there are people I know of younger ages who signed the petition who feel the same way as well.

I believe it is an inappropriate use of land that has historically been used for community use. It will remove capacity for evolving and future community use, so a point I'd like to make is that if there is a part of this centre that needs extra capacity or space, once the housing is here, it won't be able to happen. It will create access and car parking problems for users. It will compromise the amenity of surrounding households.

I think it's important to note that every person that lives neighbouring to this hub is opposed to it and I think that our Council should have respect for that. And I know that Councillor Bodsworth talked about what was scary. Well, I think it's scary that the Anglesea Councillors are ignoring their local community.

I'd like to also say it will compromise the amenity of surrounding households with increased traffic movements, as one example. It will create friction between any proposed housing tenants and community users as far as privacy of those who are accommodated here.

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The concerns regarding housing and community users are addressed as far as has been espoused with the public questions that have been asked and I believe that in our municipality, amenity and neighbourhood character is so important and we were going to have a multi-storey building compromised - well, accommodating different medical and other facilities and it was brought to my attention by Peter McGain that the Health Building Authority actually was opposed to that. That was brought to my attention and I was unaware of that and I was only recently made aware about the CFA and the fact that there has to be a turning circle for fire trucks and that's a grey area in this fire-prone area.

It is worth touching on that I haven't met anyone who is against Government Housing in Anglesea, against affordable housing, key worker housing --

CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, would you like an extension of time?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please. I'm nearly finished. And I think talking about the scary stories and people who grew up in Government Housing, I haven't come across that whatsoever. I think everyone is actually in favour of making this town vibrant and having the workers accommodated here.

I was just going to mention about the town boundary, the fact that the primary school and yesterday Peter McGain was very kind to take me on a tour. There are houses there also that are outside the town boundary already and on Camp Road there's capacity to have many more key worker housing there, which is, I would argue, more suitable.

I am a Meat Loaf fan and I'll just end by saying Aireys Inlet and Winchelsea have had housing developments and I would argue that two out of three isn't bad. Here is different to Aireys Inlet and the example at Winchelsea and I believe that we should perhaps entertain Camp Road and look at another alternative for housing. Thank you very much.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. No - it's a simple word, but it conveys a strong meaning. The Government, in this case Council, while having some contribution from the community, has sought to impose a topdown approach and dump this plan on the local community without a real understanding of the ramifications of this decision. I say no to that.

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Of course there are buildings in this hub that need a bit of work, but to include housing is not acceptable. Council is not in the business of housing and it shouldn't get into it. We're already stretched as it is.

Additionally, I think there is an appetite within this organisation to get its hands on State Government funds - ie, Victorian taxpayer funds - through the provision of housing within this hub and I ask at what cost? Cost of parking, amenity of local residents, imposition of other users on the area?

If we are to provide public facilities, I think they should benefit the majority of local users. If a plan comes through that addresses that majority need, I'll be happy to look at that. What we're looking at here is not that, in my opinion.

Now, Councillor Bodsworth talked about parking versus housing and it really is that simple. Anyone that knows basic economics knows that there's supply and demand. If you reduce supply of something, the value goes up, and vice versa. In this case, at the moment we support locals being able to park here and use the facilities. If we go through this plan, that changes the bias to the housing residents and will reduce the ability for local users to park in the area and use the facilities.

We here in Council have the power to influence increasing land available for housing, as others in this room have touched on before. That is what I think a good use of this power in Council is. If we proceed with this project in its current form, I think the Anglesea community will have impacts that are detrimental in a whole range of ways that have both been raised by others and that we don't yet know.

Previously I've talked a lot about economics. There's no perfect solution. Everything is a tradeoff. We're all trading off an early night in bed reading a book, going for a walk to be here in this room right now. That tells everyone that this issue is the most important thing to us right now and if we are filling a room with, I don't know, what, 150, 200 people who, for the most part I think, are opposed to the current direction Council is going, I think we need to take stock of that and we also need to know that there are people in the room that support the direction of Council, but if we are to use the tool of democracy, we need to go with the majority and I think I support that.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Allen, would you like to speak?

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CR ALLEN: Thank you, Mayor. As Councillors, our job is to consider the facts and weigh up opinions when making a decision. Let me start with the facts. Fact 1 - this is a draft concept plan dealing with the integration of the facilities and open spaces. As such, there will be further community consultation over important details before the detailed design is ready for planning approval.

Fact 2 - the Council has been working with the community in a variety of ways, as detailed in the report and by my fellow Councillors, to reimagine the precinct. Fact 3 - essential workers are being priced out of the Anglesea housing market. Fact 4 - using Council-owned and controlled land ensures that control can be exercised over both the eligibility and allocation criteria when selecting future essential workers as tenants.

Fact 5 - the survey results and submissions received show that there is an overwhelming support for the proposed health and medical centre location, the green spine, the retention of the community garden in its existing location, the integration of the hall, community hub and children's services and support for the consolidation of the kindergarten and occasional care in the hub and for the retention of History House.

Fact 6 - a majority, albeit small, of 52% of the respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the location of housing in the draft Concept Plan, a majority. Fact 7 - 79% of respondents under 45 and 64% between the ages of 45 and 64 support the location of housing in the draft plan.

Fact 8 - when the detailed design for the housing rental is completed, it will require planning approval, thus giving a further opportunity for amenity concerns to be considered. Fact 9 - the delivery in full of this concept plan will require the successful outcome of future funding applications.

Opinion 1 - I believe that local government has a role within its capability in the provision of affordable housing and accommodation for essential workers, the backbone of our communities. As the owner of the land, we have a viable opportunity in Anglesea to start what will be an ongoing future need as the community and the shire grows.

Opinion 2 - we must look to the future needs of the community. This precinct will not be upgraded overnight and clearly, younger residents support the proposal.

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Opinion 3 - I was extremely disappointed to hear that Councillor Stapleton was not allowed to address concerns at a recent public meeting held to discuss the housing matter. Unfortunately, this gives the impression that the airing of factual information was restricted. With an eye focused firmly on the future needs of the Anglesea community, I support this motion.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Wellington, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR WELLINGTON: Oh, Mayor Pattison, I just wonder if I can turn my video off while I speak. I think Councillor Gazzard and I are both having interruptions in the audio, which is due to internet access, so if I turn my video off it might be better.

CR PATTISON: That's fine, as long as your video is on when you vote. So let's give it a go, Councillor Wellington, and see how that goes.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you very much. So first of all, look, I have a very strong personal principle or view, I suppose, that you don't give away or trade away rights in public land unless there's a really compelling reason to do so. It's not something that should be within the mandate of nine people sitting around a table like this who don't have any direct link with the Anglesea community other than being sort of, you know, Councillors of a Council of which it's part.

The vision and design principles for this project are so broad and so motherhood that it's completely unsurprising that the community supports them. You'll get the answers to the questions that you ask and if you ask are these vision and design principles, you know, acceptable, of course the answer will be yes because they could hardly be otherwise.

The reality is there's some really good design features of this proposed development, but there are underlying questions about whether it's needed, whether it's wanted, and unfortunately, the debate is being dominated by concerns about misuse of the site for private accommodation.

Now, Council is proposing to give away valuable property rights for 50 years and the reality is once they're given away, they will not be retrievable, it will be forever. As I said, I have a very strong personal principle of value that you don't trade community space without very strong community support. The land is their community asset. It's not this Council's asset. We are holding it in trust for the community. I don't believe we have demonstrated that support

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at all and we should not be trading the community's asset without very strong support from the community and at this point it's marginal support, if that, probably less than that I suspect.

I think the question of whether the Council should even be involved in housing is a real one for me. When Anglesea people or anyone in the shire pay their rates, are they expecting that their Council will use its nine-person authority to give away use of one of the community's valuable assets to provide affordable housing for people in jobs - nurses, teachers, restaurant staff - over the next five decades or more, and I think from the response that we've got, there's a lot of people in this community who don't think that's our role and I agree with them, I don't believe that's our role. We are not a housing provider. It's another example of this Council moving outside its lane and taking on jobs that it sort of assumes for itself and then complaining we don't have the resources to deliver the services community wants.

Winchelsea should not be used as an example. The Winchelsea community strongly supported use of the Winchelsea land for accommodation for older people downsizing. They saw it as consistent with the original purpose for which the Anglican Church originally transferred the land to Council. In Anglesea, this is an entirely different situation. Obviously, in Aireys Inlet there is community support as well --

CR PATTISON: Councillor Wellington, would you like an extension of time?

CR WELLINGTON: I would for 2 minutes, thank you.

CR PATTISON: As this is an important matter, I'm happy to do that.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you, yes. I think that good data is important and from my perspective as a person trained in data and epidemiology, there's been no systematic assessment of how many teaching or nursing or hospitality jobs are unfilled in Anglesea because of a shortage of housing. Whether this housing would fit the need was another question. We've got very vague data collected through non-systematic means and we're relying on that to give away property rights that will affect at least two generations of the Anglesea community.

We don't know the need. How we can make a decision of this type in that context is absolutely beyond me. I just do not support that. I think this is really improper decision making.

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Overall, the rationale for destroying and rebuilding the entire site is also not clear to me. It seems bizarre to me that the same night that we're considering a circular economy policy we are actually proposing to demolish a cohort of useful community buildings and the community is saying, "We don't want it." Why are we doing that?

There is clearly deep concern about the approach that this Council is taking within the Anglesea community. There is a clear difference between hearing and listening. So I hear Council officers and I think Councillor Bodsworth and probably Councillor Stapleton will say, "We hear you." I've heard the residents group opposing the demolition and redevelopment of the site being blamed for stirring things up and spreading misinformation.

I think that is really an appalling attack on people who hold genuine opinions (inaudible) and I just don't support that approach. I think those people (inaudible) I think we should not be giving away valuable property rights that belong to the community without this. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Wellington. Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR GAZZARD: Yes. Can I first just ask a question?

CR PATTISON: Yes, sure.

CR GAZZARD: I just wanted to clarify, my understanding wasn't that we'd agreed to a 50-year lease.

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Gazzard, we're not at that point of determining - other than retaining the land, we haven't determined the mechanism that we use to manage that process. We have been working through that in Aireys Inlet, so we're proposing to lease the land to a housing provider in Aireys Inlet for 50 years, but we are not at that point in terms of how we would manage any housing at this precinct yet.

CR PATTISON: Thank you.

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CR WELLINGTON: Mayor Pattison, can I ask a question on that issue as well before we go further?

CR PATTISON: Sure.

CR WELLINGTON: I understand that what we're proposing is that the land will be made available and someone else will invest in the development of the land. The Council is not going to fund this housing. Is it not correct that it is highly unlikely that people will invest in the development of buildings on land if they don't have a very long-term right to the use of that land to the exclusion of other people?

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that question to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: That is fair, Councillor Wellington, but the mechanism by which we manage it and how much control Council has over the use and who has access to that housing and how it's managed, that is still yet to be determined and that would be part of a future decision of Council.

CR WELLINGTON: To clarify, the idea of public access to this area of the land clearly must be off the table if there's going to be houses built on it that are occupied by people with private property rights.

CR PATTISON: Sorry, there's a bit of a distraction here with the door. I think we've answered your question, Councillor Wellington, around that it's not yet determined, so I'll move on to Councillor Gazzard to speak to the motion. Would you like to speak, Councillor Gazzard?

CR GAZZARD: Thank you, Mayor. After consideration of the various community views on this proposal, I've decided I will support the Anglesea Community and Health Hub concept plan. I know there has been some disagreement and people who oppose it, but I have also heard from many who support the concept plan and I'll just quote a couple of those people. "All service providers do a great job providing high-quality service. However, their professionalism and enthusiasm is constrained by inadequate, outdated and no longer fit-for-purpose facilities. The draft plan provides a necessary first step towards a long-term goal of addressing this inequity."

And another one, "Everybody deserves a roof over their head. I think that the current proposal for the new buildings and upgrades in the precinct are amazing and necessary for the future of our town. I know that just for the

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community house it will be beneficial to have more space, storage, and especially a large childcare service."

And then a third quote, "The buildings in this precinct are in desperate need of upgrading to accommodate change. We need strategic work done in the precinct to future proof Anglesea going forward. So I urge you to set us on this path. Additionally, I fully support the reintroduction of housing to the site to help address our chronic shortage of affordable accommodation."

Council has been working with community in a co-design process to reimagine this vital precinct to meet the needs of the community for the next 30 years. The process has been collaborative and inclusive of all the community groups who use the hub and, importantly, the draft plan has the support of the user groups.

Housing is not a new concept for this precinct and it has historically been used as a residential site. The current concept design has a strong community focus, vision and design principles. There has been consideration of several key themes, including housing, environment and green spaces, sustainability, parking, access and traffic and implementation such as where will the medical centre be housed while new buildings are being constructed. Further, community still has access to essential services.

I have heard from community members about concerns regarding fire access for the CFA, to which I'm assured that this will be part of the detailed design by the architects to ensure safety of all users. Some residents raised concerns that the medical centre will be out of use for two to three years. It's not a new concept that buildings get upgraded while continuing to provide services. I have been involved in three different hospital builds or upgrades and moving patients between buildings and I can assure you that we continue to provide patient care during these times.

Regarding housing and the location of the housing, there seems to be (inaudible) providing affordable housing in Anglesea. It is Council-owned land and won't be subject to private real estate. Other sites might be able to house a higher number of residential units, to which I say excellent, we will be needing those too.

I dare say that many of the objectors to this concept plan may have never experienced housing uncertainty.

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CR PATTISON: Councillor Gazzard, I'll give you an extension of time.

CR GAZZARD: Thank you. We know that Anglesea properties are very expensive and many who have a property in Anglesea have it as a second home or holiday house. I would implore those petitioners to think of those in the community who are less advantaged than you and consider what it might be like to try to work, raise a family, afford rent and even food if you are not in the fortunate privileged position many of us find ourself in.

To the renters, the single parents, (inaudible) and divorced women, young workers, estranged family members, refugees, First Nations people who are in chronic illness or any people encountering difficulty just getting by whose income barely covers rent and food, this is for you.

Safe and secure housing is a human right. Access to secure, appropriate safe and affordable housing is a crucial determinant of health and wellbeing and is an important pre-condition for social participation when planning access to other social services. The provision of long-term stable housing is fundamental to social and economic justice.

The public have a right to participate in planning, assessment and development of housing which must be facilitated and encouraged by government and planning authorities. Government should not provide financial incentives that encourage real estate speculation. I believe this concept plan meets all of these requirements and I strongly endorse this motion. Thank you.

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I had a question, please, and that was whether the Council is prepared to consult with the Victorian Government architectural gardener about the appropriateness of housing at the Anglesea Hub given the site is worth in excess of \$11 million and also the fact that there are (interruption to live stream).

CR PATTISON: Could you please refrain from --

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: So your - sorry.

CR PATTISON: CEO, yes, please respond to the question.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: So your question was about the Office of the Victorian Architect, is that correct? So we have had involvement in an earlier phase of

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this project with the Office of the Victorian Architect, who provided some really helpful advice around how we - how the site could be managed in terms of the location of buildings and things to consider, so yes, we have done that, and the advice was very helpful and useful during the evolution of the project.

CR SCHONFELDER: And can I just remind about Heritage Victoria, have they been consulted?

CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, we have spoken extensively at briefings around Heritage evaluations, so we won't be passing on that question. I'll now move on to Councillor Hodge.

CR HODGE: Please bear with me. When this area was mooted to have something done on this site, it brought (interruption to live stream).

CR STAPLETON: ... the town, not by people who commute here for work and the reality is that to attract workers to live in Anglesea, we need to provide more affordable rental accommodation. You would have to be living in a bubble not to recognise the housing crisis we face, not just in Anglesea or in the Surf Coast but across the nation.

In Canberra recently we heard the Prime Minister and the Minister for Local Government each talk about the important role of local councils in working with State and Federal Governments to help resolve the housing crisis and when I see our local people being directly impacted, I know that Council does have an essential role to play. So to be having a debate now about the need for affordable housing and whether Council has a role to play feels a bit like having a debate about whether climate change really exists. We're well past that.

It's important to note that we have heard from those opposing housing for this project that they are not against affordable housing. They just don't want it here on the McMillan Street site and would prefer Council to provide it elsewhere. I do understand that. But what doesn't appear to have been widely understood is that the only way Council can ensure that housing would be affordable is if it owns the land.

Many of those opposed to housing on this site have pointed to the land owned by Alcoa as an alternative, as we've heard tonight. As generous as Alcoa may have been over many years, they are not talking about gifting their land for the community to use for affordable accommodation.

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But let's not forget this project is about much more than housing, it's about every user group in the precinct and about the people who use it. It's about providing a Community Hub that not only enhances the amenity of the public spaces, but provides scope for our essential services to expand, particularly child care and health.

The concept plan shows how we can make better use of the space on the site, accommodating existing precinct users in improved facilities while enhancing public open spaces for people to enjoy. It's about a green heart to showcase our love for the natural environment and a communal space for our local markets to flourish. It's about movement of people and enjoyment of place. It's about an expanded community house.

I'll just need 3 more minutes, if that's alright, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: That's fine, yes.

CR STAPLETON: It's about an expanded community house that encompasses the many varied groups who want to use these facilities. It's about bringing together occasional care and kinder into closer proximity and hopefully allowing for longer day care for local families. It's about protecting the things we love most about the precinct, while improving the facilities and services we all need to access long into the future.

It's natural for there to be a range of views on a project as significant and complex as this and we don't always have to agree on things. It doesn't mean anyone is right or wrong. It just means that our community has a range of preferences and opinions, different life experiences and is made up of people of different ages with different needs and different expectations. This is normal, but it is important to ensure that our different views are still based on a shared understanding of the facts, not misinformation, falsehoods or threats.

Our role as Councillors is to listen to all views, to consider opinion versus fact, and to think about the needs of current and future generations so that we can plan accordingly. The Community Hub is so important to so many of us. That's why we've seen so much passionate debate and interest in what happens here.

No one should be fooled into thinking that Council is making any decision here lightly. An extraordinary amount of time and effort has been invested into

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engaging with the community on this project and trying to understand all the possible options and consequences of decisions to be made about the future of the hub.

I'm in no doubt that anyone - sorry, I'll just have a quick drink of water. I'm in no doubt that anyone who is interested in this project has had an opportunity to find out more and have their say. Although what ultimately happens here on the hub is important, what I think is most important is how we interact with each other, how we listen, how we react to opinions that differ to our own. It's how we have the difficult conversations, how we treat each other and how we can work together to achieve great things despite our differences.

In a world that is becoming increasingly polarised, where communities are at risk of becoming divided on issues, where opinions are often stated as facts and misinformation is rife, it's so important that we think about how we can discuss issues respectfully and thoughtfully.

I encourage everyone listening tonight to think about how you want to continue this conversation in the community after this meeting. It's up to each of us to think about how we can better understand each other's needs and build long-term sustainability and resilience in our community, helping us to be better equipped to face the increasing environmental, social and economic challenges that are coming our way.

I urge my fellow Councillors to support this important project for Anglesea and I look forward to the future stages where we'll see how buildings and spaces could look, how many car parks there will be, what's proposed for costing, and how it will be funded. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Do you have any closing remarks, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I have a question, just one question, just yes or no answer. Has Heritage Victoria been consulted about this proposal?

CR PATTISON: I pass this to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: No, Councillor Schonfelder.

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you.

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CR PATTISON: Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Yes, please, Mayor. So there you have it, folks. Thanks for your patience. That was long. It's unusual to get extensions of time at any time, but I think everybody who spoke got one tonight.

But I think - I hope that you recognise that that shows the respect that Councillors have brought to this debate. As usual, I appreciate the quality of the debate and the breadth of views.

There are a few issues that I want to tackle in closing. So Councillor Barker pointed out, quite correctly, that the turnout in the room is a strong turnout opposing the concept. What I want you all to think about is who's not in the room. Who's not in the room is - thanks, everyone.

CR PATTISON: Please be respectful.

CR BODSWORTH: Who's not in the room is pretty clear from the survey results, so another thing I want to urge you to do is read the agenda papers and have a particular look at the engagement summary and the survey results, which as I said before, show some stark differences between generations, but it also shows the breadth of views and it quantifies those views as well.

In terms of giving away or trading away public land, which is something that Councillor Wellington said, she then went on to correct that. I just want to emphasise that this is not about giving away or trading away land. It's about potentially leasing land to a housing provider.

As far as destroying and rebuilding the whole site is concerned, that's not the plan. The plan is for a gradual redevelopment of the site that's guided by a master plan. So it's not a master plan for destruction and then renewal. It's a master plan for the gradual renewal and redevelopment of the site.

As far as need is concerned, we have representatives here tonight, who I won't name but I would like to congratulate, from the local group Housing Challenge 3230, which is an ongoing group, it's been going for several years. It's been looking at who's had to leave the town, it's been looking at the issues around housing, and I'm talking here about rental housing, availability and affordability. They'll continue to do that work and I'm sure a lot of people here

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will continue to hear from them, so I want to commend them on the fantastic work that they've done.

On need again, I believe that there may be an opportunity in the future and I hope that we can investigate the potential for an expression of interest process. Perhaps it's informal and perhaps it's run by Housing Challenge 3230 so that we can actually identify individuals who'd be interested in taking up an opportunity for this kind of housing should we get that far.

CR PATTISON: Mike - Councillor Bodsworth, I'll ask you to wrap up because we have had lots of extensions already.

CR BODSWORTH: Okay, thanks. I'll finish by saying that the focus on housing has taken us away from some really exciting possibilities with this site. It's all about community and community activity. There are other things, like water-sensitive urban design, green star buildings, potential for renewable energy powering a micro grid giving this precinct energy independence, which if you think about the possibility of disaster resilience --

CR PATTISON: If you could wrap it up, Mike, that would be wonderful.

CR BODSWORTH: -- could be super important. Okay, I'll wrap it up. But thanks so much for attending, thanks for listening and your patience, and thanks to fellow Councillors.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We will now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour of the motion. And all those opposed. And the motion is carried.

We will now move on to - if some of the Anglesea people would like to leave, you're more than welcome to. Thank you for staying.

I might just have a motion to suspend standing orders for 10 minutes because I think there's a lot of people to move out - moved by Councillor Bodsworth, seconded by Councillor Stapleton. For those online, we'll come back at 5 to 8. Thank you.

(Short break)

CR PATTISON: Thank you for those tuning back in. We'll now recommence our meeting. Can I have a motion to resume standing orders - Councillor

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Stapleton, seconded by Councillor Bodsworth. All those in favour. And the motion is carried.

So we now move on with item 2.2, petition titled 'Silver Eye Haven Development'. We will now consider the second petition which is on our agenda for tonight. This petition is titled 'Silver Eye Haven Development' and we have a recommendation before us. Do I have a mover of a motion? Councillor Barker - is it as per the recommendation?

CR BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder?

CR HODGE: I'm happy to second.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Hodge. Would you like to speak, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: No.

CR PATTISON: Would you like to speak, Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: I'd love to be able to, but no, I won't.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion? No? We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour --

CR BARKER: Excuse me, Mayor, is this the motion the nomination?

CR PATTISON: No, this is the next item, petition 'Silver Eye Haven Development'. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is passed unanimously.

We now move on to Notice of Motions, 3.1, Notice of Motion 158 - Development at 26 Silvereye Street Torquay. We have received one Notice of Motion for tonight's meeting. This Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillor Wellington and relates to the proposed development at 26 Silvereye Street Torquay. Officers have asked me to point out that due to an administrative error, the final point of the motion was omitted from the published agenda, which was later corrected. For clarity, I'll now ask the officers to display the motion before we proceed so everybody is familiar with the motion in its entirety. We'll just wait for Governance. Thank you.

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Councillor Wellington and Councillor Gazzard, are you able to see that final point 6 online? Great.

CR BARKER: "If more than half of the forum participants believe" --

CR PATTISON: I can read that. "If more than half of the forum participants believe further meetings would be beneficial, convene such meetings". Councillor Wellington, would you like to move your motion as displayed on the screen?

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you, yes, I would.

CR PATTISON: And do we have a seconder? Councillor Barker. Would you like to speak to the motion, Councillor Wellington?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I have an amendment to the motion, so I'm wondering if that could be read to Councillor Wellington and whether she could be asked if she accepts --

CR PATTISON: Sure, you can put forward your amendment, yes.

CR SCHONFELDER: So I provided that amendment to Governance, so if they could display that, please.

CR PATTISON: Yes, Governance, can you put that up? So with the process, because the amendment is put forward prior to any debate, Councillor Wellington and Councillor Bodsworth can choose to accept the amendment - Councillor Barker, sorry, can choose to accept the amendment. So we'll put it forward for Councillor Wellington and Councillor Barker's consideration. And the proposed amendment is for 1(d), "all Surf Coast Shire Councillors and a State Government MP to attend the forum". So that's for Councillor Wellington and Councillor Barker to consider.

CR WELLINGTON: Can I - I'm happy to - I certainly don't want to exclude anybody from this forum, but I think having nine Councillors there when you've only got, you know, six community members is too much. I mean, I'm happy for people to be there as observers. I thought a couple of Councillors should be participants. Councillor Barker and I have spent a lot of time with these residents understanding what they need, so I'd be happy with an amendment that says "includes the" --

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CR PATTISON: So Councillor Wellington, we're not debating it. This is the amendment that's been put forward. It can be - this is the one that's being considered, so if you're not comfortable with this, then you would not accept this amendment and an alternate can be put forward, but this is what's been put forward at the moment. So we're just considering one at a time.

CR WELLINGTON: I'm just wondering if Councillor Schonfelder would be willing to put forward "all other Councillors, non-participant Councillors, are invited as observers", as opposed to this amendment. Would Councillor Schonfelder be happy --

CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I just felt that all Councillors should be welcome to every meeting that's held.

CR PATTISON: So are you accepting Councillor Wellington's request?

CR SCHONFELDER: Well, Councillor Wellington, my understanding is that you felt that all Councillors could attend and they could observe the meeting?

CR WELLINGTON: Yes.

CR SCHONFELDER: And I'd be happy with that.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. So I'd be happy to - can I have the motion I've moved back up again, please? So what we've got is that there be Councillors Barker and Wellington and two additional Councillors, which would give us four, participating and then I would be happy to put "all other Councillors may attend as observers" or "any other Councillor may attend as an observer" with all other Councillors invited as observers. Would you be happy with that, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, Councillor Wellington.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Barker, are you accepting that? Okay. So this is now the substantive motion. Councillor Wellington, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR WELLINGTON: Thanks very much. I would. Look, the first thing I'd like to say is as a healthcare professional, I think it is really important for me to say

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this is not a debate about whether people with serious mental illness and care needs are entitled to live with dignity within their communities. Of course they are. There is no question about that. It's a real shame that some have reduced the debate to that level and accused those who have legitimate concerns about this development of being nimbies. I think that's deeply unfair.

The debate here is about the suitability of this development for the purpose of allowing people with severe mental - healthy people with severe mental illness to live within a community setting, which they obviously have a right to do, but there are real concerns about this development's density, orientation, its location opposite a primary school, the lack of outdoor communal space on the site and the proximity to a large cohort of busy and noisy children, and regrettably, I think this is a situation where the community is not being heard by anybody.

There are 12 residential units and accommodation for a staff member as well as communal lounges and things planned for a one quarter acre block, mostly indoors. There appears to be very little outdoor communal space. Many people in this meeting would have grown up on a quarter acre block with one house per block and it doesn't take a lot of imagination to think about the density of 12 units on a block equivalent to what used to be - not necessarily ideally, but used to be a community quarter acre.

There are very legitimate questions about the appropriateness of the siting, the design and the density of this development. Some neighbours are raising particular concerns about its proximity to their boundaries and their own private residence. There are concerns, and I think legitimate concerns, about smoking on balconies within metres of children's bedrooms and neighbours I believe have been informed that that will be permitted and I think there is a high prevalence of smoking in the group of clients - you know, the general population of clients who will be eligible for this facility. That is a legitimate concern of neighbours and it needs to be discussed and recognised and addressed.

I think that the reasonableness of this development should have been tested through a normal planning process, but unfortunately the State Government has seen fit to remove most planning controls from this and similar developments which it funds to build (inaudible), so I think that's unfair to neighbours (inaudible).

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I've been told that the minister, one of the previous ministers in the Government that actually introduced that change of planning controls is now on the board of Mind Australia and I think that's a really unfortunate change that's left these neighbours isolated and floating in a sea of questions with nobody answering them.

For many families, their home is their castle and I've personally experienced a serious and unfair threat to the amenity of my property and I know the sense of fear, helplessness and anxiety that that sort of situation generates. I'm a very strong defender of people's rights to reasonable amenity - not perfect amenity, but objectively reasonable amenity - and there are always competing rights with developments that need to be balanced and most of us have the opportunity for our concerns about developments that threaten our amenity to be heard and adjudicated independently, but these residents and parents of children at this school are being denied that.

I'm deeply disappointed that an organisation such as Mind Australia, which has an enduring commitment to mental health and wellbeing of people with serious mental illness, hasn't seen fit to engage in a constructive neighbourly dialogue about the legitimate concerns raised by residents and parents and, in particular, recognising the stress that their disengagement is causing and I'm really deeply sorry for the concerned residents and parents.

In that context, I did ask at the June Council meeting - I tried to ask whether the CEO would act as a conduit for residents and Mind Australia, between residents and Mind Australia, by inviting all parties to a meeting and facilitating a constructive discussion. There needs to be sharing of information here. It's just unbelievable. The lengths I've seen from Mind Australia are bureaucratic, obstructive, they skirt around the questions being asked, they don't identify who's answering them in some cases, and I think it's a really unfair and reprehensible approach to neighbourly relations.

Unfortunately, I wasn't permitted to complete my request to the CEO at the last meeting, hence the need to put forward a Notice of Motion, although perhaps that's given Councillors time to think about this sort of approach, which I think is very legitimate for Council to engage in. I seek an extension of time, Mayor Pattison, please.

CR PATTISON: Yes, that's fine.

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CR WELLINGTON: Convening such a meeting is a very appropriate role for Council. We do hold considerable responsibility for public health and wellbeing, which is threatened in this circumstance, and in almost all circumstances we have responsibility for planning.

I believe that Council officers have been advocating to Mind Australia to communicate better with residents, but that's been entirely invisible to residents and it hasn't been successful. It's failed. I think that a suggestion that a meeting would compromise resident privacy, which has been Mind Australia's approach, is just, frankly, incredible. I know quite a bit about privacy as a lawyer, as a healthcare professional, and we do know that the residents of this facility will have significant mental ill-health and require 24-hour support. That's the nature of the facility. So they are people with serious illness.

And the questions residents want answered are not about individuals' mental illness or health, they're about the density of the development, the proximity to their private spaces, how the facility will be operated to prevent unreasonable impacts on neighbours' privacy and how negative impacts on family and children's health and wellbeing will be prevented, so they're reasonable questions and Mind needs to engage.

I'm really disappointed we haven't been able to get them to the table. We need to invite them. They need to be accountable to come to the table and talk with residents in a controlled environment with a CEO who's very capable (inaudible) and try to get some of these questions answered and neighbourly relations on a much better foot.

I believe that Council through the (inaudible) bring Mind Australia to the table and that means inviting them, giving them options for when that meeting will be held and offering to facilitate it so they feel safe and comfortable with that environment and residents feel safe. I commend this motion to Council and I hope that it's passed, Mind Australia will engage in good faith with this (inaudible). Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker, would you like to speak?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. It seems crazy to me that this development to address mental health is causing damage to the mental health of neighbours. This topic, though, is predominantly a state issue. Historically, I've been of the opinion that Council shouldn't interfere in State matters, but due to other

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issues that have popped up in the past, my stance has been evolving. This issue is the catalyst for me to shift my position.

Where the State uses planning laws or lack thereof to circumvent normal planning processes that would apply to people wanting to build a residential house, I'm now of the view that we should use council to defend against plans that allow areas metres from the bedroom of windows of children to be used for smoking. The mind boggles.

As someone who's suffered significant mental health issues myself to the point of attempted suicide, I think I'm well placed to say that the provision of housing for people with mental health challenges needs to be very well thought out and not just dumped in opportunistic places, especially across the road from a school.

Further to this, everything that I advocate for in this chamber is to reduce the influence of local government on the people, thereby reducing the stress that contributes to poor mental health, reducing what government charges people so that they have more money, and reducing financial stress that ultimately reduces the need for government to be that saviour of the problem that was originally caused by Council.

Now, this Notice of Motion seeks to lay the foundation of what should have occurred when this project was first envisaged a couple of years ago. Better late than never.

The CEO's information report on this item refers to senior officers doing work to address community concerns. Based on engagement with the community, that work seems to be insufficient. Additionally, it talks to the unbudgeted nature of the meetings should they proceed. Now, to me that seems to read as a reason not to hold them. That is not an acceptable reason for me to oppose the motion given it's such a little cost for such a significant situation. A simple remedy for this situation is for advocates of this proposal to have this facility be built next to their home or if they don't want it next to their home, why don't they want it next to their home?

I encourage Councillors to support this Notice of Motion to show that we as a body are willing to support residents faced with challenges from the State Government.

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Now, as a point raised by Councillor Wellington, I did some preliminary searches myself but couldn't find anything. Is Council aware of any relationship between former government planning ministers or people connected to them being a part of the board of any body involved in this development?

CR PATTISON: That's a question? I think we already know Richard Wynne is on the board of Mind. If that's what you're referring to, that's public knowledge. Is that the question that you were seeking? Yes.

CR BARKER: Is that not a conflict of interest?

CR PATTISON: Are you still continuing with your --

CR BARKER: I'm done for time, but that's a question. We talk about conflict of interest all the time.

CR PATTISON: I think your time is done. Would anyone else like to speak to the motion? Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. As it has been stated, Haven Homes is a project of Mind Australia and is classified as community care accommodation, which is exempt from requiring a planning permit and is funded through the State Government's Social Housing Growth Fund. The planning exemptions were put in place when the State Planning Minister was Richard Wynne, who now serves on the board of the Haven Foundation and Mind Australia - I agree a conflict of interest.

The Surf Coast Shire Council has no direct role in this matter. However, the Council has received two briefings, one on 24 October 23 and one on 4 June 24. On both occasions the concerns of the residents, as outlined in the Notice of Motion, have been raised directly by Councillors to Mind Australia and Haven Homes representatives.

I wish to acknowledge that both the Mayor and Councillor Hodge have been passionate in their advocacy for better communication between the parties. However, in spite of their representations and the representations by the senior Council officers estimated to be in the order of 40 officer hours over several months, which includes to the State Government, Mind Australia has chosen to communicate with individuals, rejecting group meetings as an effective engagement tool.

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I therefore reject the statement in the rationale that the shire has declined involvement. I understand that Councillors Wellington and Barker work and have found it difficult or impossible to attend the briefings when these matters were aired. However, the agendas are published with indicative times. There is the facility to Zoom into a briefing for a short time or to request a briefing by the officers, which our CEO has undertaken on many occasions. Both the mover and the seconder of the Notice of Motion could have availed themselves of any of these opportunities.

It is also stated in the rationale that the shire is an independent party with the skills, knowledge and experience to facilitate resolution. As stated in the CEO's report, this has been done.

I feel that as a Council we have done a great deal to advocate on behalf of the residents. The additional advocacy may even be counterproductive and even cruel to raise the residents' expectations to have them disappointed again.

In my view, the only effective approach is to go to the body that has the power to act. State parliamentarians should lead the delegation to the steps of Parliament House and/or facilitate a meeting with Mr Wynne. I know Richard Riordan personally and I know that he's a caring member who has tried representing the concerned residents by both writing to the Minister on several occasions and by raising the matter in Parliament, only to receive no reply. Both Ministers Kilkenney and Shing have a responsibility to answer his letters and to receive, I suggest, the delegation as suggested in the Notice of Motion.

I have a great deal of empathy for the residents and I agree with a lot of the points raised by Councillor Wellington. I will reluctantly support the motion. However, I believe that the actions are aimed in the wrong direction and that this Council has been unjustly criticised. Thank you.

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I wanted to speak.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please. I'd just like to thank my colleagues for their contributions and the pertinent points they've raised and I'd also like to say with care and respect that I'm sorry to learn about Councillor Barker. I actually went to school with some veterans and they also have sadly suffered from mental health issues also.

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I would like to pick up on a point that Councillor Allen mentioned about whether this is really a Council matter. I would argue, from discussions that I've had with Ian Stewart, who's present tonight, in relation to traffic, traffic is a Council concern and that road there, Silvereye Street, is a very busy street. It's a very narrow street and with the primary school there, there are very genuine safety concerns that are present and I believe that they need to be addressed.

I personally believe that the location of this facility is inappropriate. I'd like to actually think it was an oversight. And I also have grave concerns about the location being held next to or opposite a primary school. But another colleague of mine actually mentioned, very insightfully, the fact that the actual residents might have agoraphobia or they might have concerns about having crowded areas in their residency and that is something that is very important also.

But I'd also like to concur with Councillor Allen about the advocacy from Councillor Pattison and Councillor Hodge in particular in relation to this matter because we want a caring and compassionate community and it's just a matter of how we manage these issues and hopefully we can make some progress in relation to this matter. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Gazzard?

CR GAZZARD: Thank you. I would just like to foreshadow a motion. I don't know if that can be put up.

CR PATTISON: Yes, that's fine. We've done that in the past, so we can put forward your foreshadowed motion for people to be aware of.

CR GAZZARD: I'll just say my concerns --

CR PATTISON: But we can't speak to it, sorry, Kate. We can put it up for people to read so that they're aware of it, but we won't be able to speak to the foreshadowed motion. So we'll just let Governance put that up. So we'll just give them a moment.

CR GAZZARD: Thank you.

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CR PATTISON: So I'll just explain. So Kate is foreshadowing that the NoM that Councillor Wellington has put forward - if this doesn't pass, then she's proposing this alternate or this foreshadowed motion. So the reason it's not an amendment is because the outcome is considered significant enough that it needs to be a different motion, but the majority of the foreshadowed motion is the same, and for those in the audience that can't see, the points are highlighted.

I can read you the points at the bottom, so "agrees that to ensure effective use of Surf Coast Shire resources, the forum will not proceed if Mind Australia or Haven Foundation representatives do not agree to attend". And the third dot point, "in the event that the forum does not proceed on the basis of point 2 above for this motion requires the CEO of Surf Coast Shire to write to Mind Australia, Haven Foundation and Homes Victoria seeking engagement with residents and the school community to assist in ensuring that the homes integrate into the community when constructed and works to address concerns raised by community members relating to car parking and suitable locations for smoking in the open areas are addressed." So that's the - so it's very similar.

CR WELLINGTON: (Inaudible) accept that (inaudible), Mayor Pattison.

CR PATTISON: Okay. You're happy to accept that as an amendment, Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: (Inaudible).

CR PATTISON: You're breaking in and out a bit.

CR WELLINGTON: (Inaudible). I am happy, Mayor Pattison, to accept that as an amendment. I'll just cut my video out for the minute.

CR PATTISON: I think that there is some differences, but given that you've put forward the NoM, if you're happy with that becoming part of that, then I'm comfortable with it. We'll go through the main process. Sorry, Councillor Wellington, we'll still have to go through - because the debate has started, we'll still have to go through --

CR WELLINGTON: Can I just clarify?

CR PATTISON: Yes.

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CR WELLINGTON: Sorry, I just want to clarify, there is nothing deleted from my motion, is that correct?

CR PATTISON: No.

CR WELLINGTON: No. I'm happy with that. I'm happy to accept it as an amendment.

CR PATTISON: Okay. So we'll still go through the standard process, which means that we need a seconder for Councillor Gazzard's amendment. Councillor Schonfelder.

CR WELLINGTON: Can I second that? No.

CR PATTISON: No, it can't be you or Councillor Barker. So Councillor Schonfelder has seconded Councillor Gazzard's amendment. Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak to your amendment?

CR GAZZARD: Thanks, Mayor, just briefly. I'm happy to support the Notice of Motion and I do agree with Councillor Allen's points, a certain amount of this is not in Council's Council.

CR PATTISON: Just to clarify, Councillor Gazzard, we're currently speaking about your amendment.

CR GAZZARD: Sorry, yes.

CR PATTISON: Only the amendment. We'll put that to the vote and then we'll move back to the substantive motion, just to clarify that, so you're speaking about your amendment.

CR GAZZARD: Okay. So the amendment, the idea of it is just to hold Mind and Haven Homes more accountable because they're really the key people we need in the room and so having the forum without them there is kind of pointless anyway, so I think that's sort of the purpose of the amendment. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak?

CR SCHONFELDER: I'll reserve my right, thank you.

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CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak to the amendment?
Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Yes, thanks very much. I'd just like to thank Councillor Gazzard for putting that forward. I think it's very sensible. To me, there is quite a possibility - I hope it doesn't happen. I hope they come to the table, but if they don't, it gives us some more actions up our sleeve and I think that's really appropriate.

I'm pretty shocked at the notion that an organisation that really does have considerable power in this situation because they don't have to comply with the Planning Law has been so unwilling to meet with the community to discuss legitimate concerns and I just hope we can reset that. I really encourage mind Australia - hopefully they're watching tonight and they're thinking about this and I really encourage them to take part in this and to try to reset this dialogue. It's very unhealthy the way it's proceeding at the moment and so, yes, I'd just like to thank Councillor Gazzard for putting that forward. I'm very much appreciative. I (inaudible) the motion and I can strongly support it.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Hodge?

CR HODGE: Yes, just very, very quickly. I'll support it, that's fine. I think it's good. I just think with a successful forum you have everyone around the table, like a State Government representative. Richard Riordan is not in power, he's the Liberal candidate, a great community man. I'll support it, but I really do think there should have been, if it can be an invitation as well, if it goes ahead, to a state one. Then you can address all of the questions that you've been asking about conflict of interest, or whatever, but you haven't got a decision maker there. You've got decision makers to talk about community engagement, but if you want the process changed, you've got to have the decision maker that can do that and to me that's not on the invite list. That's all.

But I'll accept it, but I have concerns about this forum and hopefully it works, but will it change anything for the next one? So that's my thoughts.

CR PATTISON: Would anyone else like to speak --

CR WELLINGTON: Mayor Pattison, can I foreshadow at this point that once this amendment is dealt with, I'd be happy to support another amendment

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that we invite the Minister for Planning or the Minister for Health or one of the State Government ministers to join this forum as well.

CR PATTISON: I'll take that as a foreshadowed, but we need to resolve this amendment first. Do any other Councillors want - purely to this amendment.

CR ALLEN: Yes, I'd agree with the amendment on the basis of that foreshadowed motion. I think it's essential that the people in power are there.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. No other Councillors wish to speak to this one? We'll now put it to the vote. So we are voting in favour of the amendment. All those in favour? And the motion is carried unanimously.

We'll now revert back to the substantive motion with those amendments and I believe, Councillor Wellington, you're now proposing another amendment.

CR WELLINGTON: Another amendment, that we invite an appropriate State Government minister to join the forum, which might be planning or health.

CR PATTISON: Can we pause for a moment? I'm just going to confer with Governance. You can just come and talk to me if you want.

OFFICER: Sorry, it's my understanding that the mover of a Notice of Motion can't amend it.

CR PATTISON: Okay.

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I'm happy to move that a member of the cabinet or a minister attend. Do you want that to be specified which minister or will that suffice?

CR WELLINGTON: No, that we invite an appropriate minister.

CR PATTISON: Okay, I'll leave that for Governance to put on the screen.

CR WELLINGTON: Yes.

CR PATTISON: Okay. We'll now - so that is moved by Councillor Schonfelder. Would you like to speak to that?

CR SCHONFELDER: I'll reserve my right, thank you.

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CR PATTISON: Sorry, actually, we need a seconder. Who would like to second? Councillor Hodge?

CR SCHONFELDER: And I'll reserve my right, thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Hodge, would you like to speak to it?

CR HODGE: No, not really. It makes sense. We've already discussed it. That would make sure the forum is complete.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak to this? We'll now put that to the vote. All those in favour of this amendment. And that's carried unanimously.

So we now move back to the substantive motion. Councillor Gazzard, you haven't spoken to this one. Would you like to speak to the motion?

CR GAZZARD: Yes, thank you. I'm happy to support it, particularly with the emphasis that the appropriate people are in the forum. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the substantive motion? We'll now put the motion to the vote. Sorry, Councillor Wellington, when there's amendments, you lose your right to a right of reply. It's item 31.11 of the Governance Rules. We now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously. Thank you.

CR WELLINGTON: Can I say, Mayor Pattison, that that's the most cooperative approach to a problem I've seen this Council adopt in my past four years and I really appreciate it. Thank you very much.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. That's good feedback.

CR HODGE: Sorry, Mayor, to interrupt. Would you mind if I take leave? I think I've --

CR PATTISON: That's fine. Thank you, Councillor Hodge. We appreciate you coming and representing. It's much appreciated.

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We now move on to 4.3, Economic Development and Creative Places Strategy Update. The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the implementation of the Economic Development - thank you.

SPEAKER: Have we skipped 4.2?

CR PATTISON: Oh, yes, I have. Sorry, I got carried away. We'll just let people move on and then we will move on to 4.2, not 4.3. I'm getting ahead of myself. How could I have missed the local law on parklets, very exciting.

If others feel like leaving, now is your time. We'll have a little pause. It is 8.30, so we appreciate you staying this long. Thank you.

Alright. We will now move to item 4.2, Community Amenity Local Law 2024 Incorporating Outdoor Dining (Parklet) Guidelines. The purpose of this report is to present the proposed Community Amenity Local Law 2024 and Outdoor Dining Parklet Guidelines to Council for adoption. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Schonfelder - as per the recommendation? And seconded by Councillor Bodsworth. Would you like to speak, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please, Mayor. I'd just like to say that there's a saying that every cloud has a silver lining and with COVID, what happened was there were people who they seemed to dine out more and we social distanced and also in relation to Australian culture, there was a time when we were more English than the English where we had cups of tea and the like and then with the immigration that we had post-war, we then had a Mediterranean influence and we had al fresco influences and dining and parklets have now been adopted throughout Victoria and, in particular, in the City of Melbourne and we've had trials of a parklet as well and it's been very warmly received by the community.

Once again, I will just emphasise the fact that our community has a large pet ownership and there are people like myself who like to dine out with our own dogs and in particular, I might add that my dog actually probably dines better than me, Mayor. So thank you once again. I encourage my colleagues to support this item.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth, would you like to speak?

CR BODSWORTH: Briefly, thanks, Mayor. So as Councillor Schonfelder noted, this was essentially sparked by community regrets at the loss of the Jan Juc

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Beach Hotel parklet, which was a pop-up parklet during COVID triggered, and thanks to the community there for helping us recognise the value of this process to try to formalise both policy and guidelines around parklets and to subsequently incorporate that into the local law.

So it reflects community recognition that prime public land in busy and vibrant areas might be better allocated to people than cars. That's a worldwide recognition. So as Councillor Schonfelder noted, parklets are a worldwide phenomenon and it's an example of what we call place making and it underscores the value of our Council's increasing attentiveness to place making.

Place making of course is working much better when it's done right, which is what the value of the guidelines and the incorporation into local law is to ensure that this is well thought out and that the risks and benefits have been thoroughly examined and that we can move forward with confidence and offer this opportunity to businesses because it can be a great boost to the success of their businesses. So thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Gazzard, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR GAZZARD: Yes. I thoroughly support it. I think the pilot was very successful and very well received by the Jan Juc community. Profits are a great opportunity to improve and green our local street. That comes with multiple benefits - city cooling, pollution trapping. Depending on the materials used, there's more absorption of rain and stormwater so there's a flash flooding reduction and significant improvements to our health and wellbeing and for the businesses, parklets are a window of opportunity to increase business orders by 10 to 20%, a trend which has been maintained that the parklet has "staying power".

Research from the UK suggests that cyclists spend around 40% more time in shops than motorists do, so they're a great tool to keep an active community of cyclists and pedestrians as well as visitors enthusiastically roaming our streets for longer. Parklets are key for building back a greener future, improving our public spaces and supporting local businesses. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Wellington, would you like to speak to the motion?

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CR WELLINGTON: Thanks very much. Look, in the right place these facilities are fabulous and I often spend time in Melbourne particularly around Brighton and (inaudible) more recently, I've been spending time up there, and they're great facilities. I really like them. The guidelines themselves are sound and robust and I have no difficulty having those incorporated into the local law.

I do think that the implementation of this is going to be the issue and has been the issue. So normally what we have is a lot of people who use these facilities and really enjoy them, but if there are houses and dwellings close by that are badly impacted by noise, music, alcohol consumption, inappropriate behaviour in public spaces, you can have a small number of people who get overwhelmed by the majority who think it's great fun. It's not always all great fun for the neighbours.

So there is a section in these guidelines around amenity and, you know, I'm so satisfied with that that I'll be watching this from a community perspective when I'm no longer in Council and just see - you know, I've certainly had lots of complaints as a Councillor mainly from Torquay and Jan Juc, mainly at the ward, but about inappropriate behaviour and about Council officers failing to enforce appropriate public health and wellbeing standards and I've gone in to bat for quite a few people about this sort of thing.

There's a limit. Even if it's only a small number of people affected, if they're badly affected and their own lives are made a misery and they can't sleep and they've got, you know, massive noisy inappropriate conduct, we need to deal with that as well. So it's the same issue everywhere across Australia. You've got to balance people's rights and you don't dismiss the rights of the minority just because they are a minority. You've got to look at those rights and balance them and work out what's reasonable for all.

So I think the implementation of this will be the key to its success. I'm happy to support it. But I know there's been problems for Jan Juc. I don't know whether we actually knocked on the neighbours' doors and said, "How have you found it?" I would have done that if I'd have been an officer. Maybe I can ask that question. Did we actually target the neighbours for their feedback? Can I stop and ask it?

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that question to our CEO.

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MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Councillor Wellington. My understanding is that they were all sent letters and encouraged through the letter drop to participate in the survey and provide feedback as part of the process.

CR WELLINGTON: And did we get feedback from neighbours that were different from the feedback of the majority of people who were having a lot of fun at this parklet?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: I have to check with the General Manager of Placemaking & Environment. I'm not sure that there was - there was pretty strong support broadly.

CR WELLINGTON: But was it from the neighbours?

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Yes, we'll just see if the General Manager of Placemaking & Environment has that data with him.

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: No, I don't have the details. I am aware of one neighbour who has ongoing concerns about parking in the precinct.

CR WELLINGTON: Yes, well, I'm aware of - thank you very much for that. I'm aware of a neighbour that's got concerns about more than parking.

But, you know, generally I'm happy with the guidelines. They are only guidelines. But I am concerned at the attitude, I suppose, by Council to the sort of they're only in the minority, they don't matter. They do matter. People do matter even if they are in a minority. If they're particularly affected by something, we need to (inaudible) listening to them, in my view, and I hope that we will do that better in the future than we've done it in the past. But I will support the guidelines. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR BARKER: Just briefly --

CR PATTISON: Oh, sorry, Councillor Barker would like to speak to the motion.

CR BARKER: Yes, thanks, Mayor. In order to get out of here before 10pm, I'll be brief. Overall, these guidelines are ones that I can support begrudgingly.

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Areas of concern such as flooding should be addressed through having suitable drainage infrastructure that is well maintained. The only reservation I have about these guidelines, it's going to add another significant bureaucratic layer to an organisation that is already overloaded with policies. Other than that, the whole concept is fine.

CR PATTISON: Do you have any closing remarks, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please, Mayor. Just briefly, I'll just add on to what Councillor Bodsworth and, in particular, Councillor Gazzard referred to. With walkability so important in our local communities and a statistic I learnt recently was that if a person walks 20 minutes each day, they add 20 minutes to their life also.

I also would add that during our briefings about this - and this is really so important for healthy communities - with the word parklet, I was just reminded of the pikelets that my grandmother used to make. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And I think Kate has frozen - Councillor Gazzard, are you frozen? Well, we'll take the vote anyway and it's passed unanimously.

CR GAZZARD: I vote yes.

CR PATTISON: Yes, it's fine. It's passed unanimously. Councillor Wellington is now frozen, but that's all good. I think we've collected everybody's votes that are in favour. So thank you. A few tech problems with our - it's just with the Zoom, it's not with the live streaming.

If we move on to 4.3, Economic Development and Creative Places Strategy Update. The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update on the implementation of the economic development, Creative Places Strategies and Australian National Surfing Museum Master Plan. Do we have a mover of a motion - Councillor Allen, as per the recommendation?

CR ALLEN: Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And seconded by Councillor Barker. Would you like to speak, Councillor Allen?

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CR ALLEN: Thank you. This report provides a progress update on the Economic Development and Creative Places Strategies and the Australian National Surfing Museum Master Plan for the period January 2023 to June 2024. Attachment 4.3.1 outlines our achievements over this time, listing the outcomes of 34 projects across five themes.

The outcomes listed under the five themes all contribute to our prosperity, both material and non-material, and our identity, building upon our unique place.

I will highlight a few examples. The annual visitation numbers for the exhibition at the Lorne Visitors Information Centre telling the story of the Great Ocean Road construction was well over 32,000, with the impact multiplied as these visitors tell their families and friends boosting our tourist economy.

Now, underneath this outcome is another story that is not told in the report because we had to be selective, but the support to our local historical societies through the small grants program allows this information to be collected, researched and displayed. The story of the Great Ocean Road construction exhibition was put together with significant contributions from the Lorne Historical Society and the overwhelming number of exhibits are on loan from the society. This example also highlights the link between the arts, creativity and economic development.

My second example from the same theme is appropriately the Anglesea Art Space. The May year to date statistics showed that 17 exhibitions were coordinated involving 329 artists. There were 5,945 visitors, with artwork sales totalling well over \$54,000, generating over \$15,000 revenue from artist entrance fees and commission on sales. The work of artists and creative individuals and industries not only boosts economic activity, but it contributes to community member networking and wellbeing as well as enhancing visitor experience, all part of our Creative Places Strategy.

My third example is the business concierge project that has supported 36 businesses in the reporting period. This is a free business support program to inform new businesses on the permits they need, thus cutting red tape on the path to starting their business. Beyond this project, the report indicates that the department has supported an additional 130 businesses, all part of the Council plan to support a robust and diverse economy.

My fourth example is the Australian Surf Rowing Championships held in Lorne over four days in February 23. The nation's best surf boat crews from all

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states of Australia and from New Zealand gathered to compete. The event generated over \$1 million in economic activity and it was broadcast to a national audience. Added to this are the three international-level events secured in the past 18 months. I note that our objective was to secure two by 2026. This is an outstanding outcome by the events team.

Lastly, I have selected the project that is currently under way with the Council working with Barwon Water to complete a feasibility study for a large-scale water grid in the Barwon region and, importantly, an alternative water supply for the hinterland using, for example, treated stormwater and recycled water through a connected grid of alternative water sources. As well as the feasibility studies, we await the outcome of a funding application by Barwon Water for stage 1. There is the potential to supply up to 40 gegalitres of alternative water to agriculture and other uses, which will alone make a significant contribution to economic development and environmental sustainability. I applaud the work undertaken by our environment and sustainability department.

Attachment 4.3.2 in the report contains newly developed economic prosperity measures against people, place and business pillars, each containing 15 metrics which are aggregated to achieve a score out of 10, with a score within a band of 7 to 8 considered ideal.

As time is on the mend, on the wing, I will mention three measures that require greater attention: place - growth in the number of transport services; people - improved multiday visitation; and business - increase the number of workers who live in their communities.

I congratulate Mr Pike and his team for the outstanding number of enhanced outcomes noted in this report and for making this report available to Councillors and the community in a timely manner. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you, Councillor Allen, very well timed. Councillor Barker, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR BARKER: Very briefly. I'm happy to support this update, but will warn that the strategy is seeking to do way too much in an increasingly challenging economic environment. I would like to put it on the record, as I have done before, nothing we do is for free, everything comes with a cost, so things that we do for "free" cost all ratepayers and I'd love that to be a little bit more transparent in future reports.

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CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: Thank you, Mayor. I think this is such a great report. It's full of fantastic information and achievements and outcomes and I do encourage everyone in the community to have a read through it.

I particularly love the economic prosperity framework that's being developed to define success for our community beyond the usual gross domestic product, or GDP, measure. It looks at place, people and business to provide a more holistic view of factors that influence prosperity for our community.

And while there are many highlights I could draw on, I'll say a few words about outcomes from the Creative Places Strategy and the importance of this in building the profile and significance of the arts and creative industries on the Surf Coast. This Council term we've increased our commitment to the arts, recognising its value and importance across our community. It's one of seven themes in our four-year strategic Council plan and the Creative Places Strategy provides direction through to 2031.

More than \$2 million has been spent on the arts in the Surf Coast over and above our business as usual commitments in recent years. This includes government funding for the MAC refurbishment, but beyond that, Council has elevated its contribution and promotion of the arts through new grants, expanded programs and various projects such as the develop arts grant and workshops, a public art audit, shed talks, upgrading community halls to provide more exhibition or improved exhibition spaces for local artists, ongoing support for the Anglesea arts space, and so much more.

We have a much stronger focus on supporting professional artists in our community and Surf Coast is proud to have been recognised in recent years as one of the top five creative hot spots in regional Australia.

I also really appreciate the work highlighted in this report under the theme to improve economic prosperity through regenerating the environment. It's one of five themes captured - to capture outcomes in this report and in addition to the integrated water project that Councillor Allen just spoke about, another couple of items that have been undertaken under this theme are for eco destination certification and this process is for Council to be certified, or Surf Coast Shire Council to be certified as an eco destination, which will allow us to attract visitors that align with our community's values and it will also provide

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an avenue for businesses to join us on this path to improve their own corporate sustainability.

I'll finish off with the responsible cafes program, which I just think was awesome. It involved 16 local cafes trying to reduce single-use coffee cups and it's estimated that 227,500 single-use cups were saved from landfill through this program. I think that's just an extraordinary number and it shows what's possible in this space. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. So thanks to the other Councillors, I won't repeat the (inaudible) or recover the ground that they've covered.

A few things that I want to mention. I recently saw the Australian National Surf Museum inspiring attendees at the NAIDOC Week Spirit in Surfing event and shortly after that the launch celebration for the WSL Longboard World Tour event that the Mayor mentioned in the intro, which was held at Bells, or Djarrak, so I saw how the surf museum inspired some surf luminaries and some of the world's best longboarders.

It's an awesome place, a key visitor attraction, and it's an important museum also to conserve and interpret surfing heritage artifacts and culture and as we heard a while back, it has one of the world's most significant collections of surfing history. It also has very strong attendance, strong and recently risen.

One of the things that I wanted to call out is point 12 in the report, an excellent report, "Central to the vision of each strategic document is a prosperous and flourishing Surf Coast with a strong sense of place and identity, where contributions to wellbeing, environment and the economy are known and valued", and one of the things that I particularly value about this report is the positivity of it and how it reflects back to our communities how clever and creative they are and how collaborative and how committed to each other, how supportive they are of each other's needs and aspirations. It's also about collaboration between communities and businesses in Council and about identifying and removing barriers, allowing communities and businesses to pursue their visions.

My only concern with it is where this fantastic and inspiring report goes now and I have asked about that and I have been told about some of the places that it goes, but I'd make the general point that great news like this that's

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actually world class and cutting edge should be promoted. We should be sort of standing proud by work of this quality and we should be getting it out as far and wide as we can. I think it's good for us, but it's also good for the community, so our partners in this, to have that reflected back to them. Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Wellington, would you like to speak to this motion?

CR WELLINGTON: Thanks. Look, I'm happy to note this report. It's an interesting read. I'm with Councillor Barker, I think we are trying to do too much and I think we have to try to narrow what we do and get an appropriate balance between sort of core infrastructure and services on the one hand, and I can hear Councillor Hodge saying we're not just about roads and rubbish, and of course we're not, but there are concerns that the community when they pay their rates pay for and we need to deliver those well and we also need to support the arts and support the economy.

But I suppose when I read this I think there's such a wide array of things and so many of the outcomes are really process measures as I see them, you know, we've done something, we've ticked something, but whether it leaves a sustainable impact on the wellbeing of the community I don't know for a lot of these things - not for all of them, but for some of them.

So, from my perspective, we have to be more focused about - this organisation needs to be way more focused about what it does and do a smaller number of things really well and carry them through over a long period of time to really achieve defined outcomes that we identify at the beginning as the goal.

So yes, I just - I get swamped by the number of things that we're doing and I don't think that's a good thing. I think it's a bad thing. We should do fewer things and do them much more (inaudible). But it's an interesting report. I'm happy to note it and happy to acknowledge a lot of the good work that's happening.

CR PATTISON: Would you like any closing remarks, Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. Look, Councillor Bodsworth, I'm already penning my report for the Lorne Independent which will feature this report and I encourage all my fellow Councillors to do similar things. I really do regret that

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Milton Friedman has already published "there is no such thing as a free lunch", denying Councillor Barker a publishing opportunity.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to Circular Economy Action Plan. The purpose of this report is to present the Circular Economy Action Plan 2024-27 to Council for adoption. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Bodsworth, and seconded by Councillor Stapleton. I'm assuming that's as per the recommendation.

CR BODSWORTH: Correct. Thanks, Mayor, I'll speak to this. I'll try to keep it brief, in view of the time.

So when I - shortly after I first became a Councillor, I was grateful and very interested to attend a UN System Staff College course called Circular Economy and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. I was really - I was going into it sort of not really knowing a lot about what to expect, but I was really inspired by that course. I learned a lot.

So that's partly why I'm so pleased that we're bringing this action plan tonight and I want to point out a couple of things about it. So one of the things that I learnt during that course was something called Earth Overshoot Day, and I mention that because Earth Overshoot Day is a week away now, it's on 1 August 2024, and that's the day every year, and sadly, it moves forward slightly every year - the day every year on which the Earth's capacity to provide resources and to assimilate waste is exceeded. So we're running down the capital of our planet. In Australia, if the whole world lived like Aussies do, Earth Overshoot Day would occur on 5 April, so it's way in the past now. I think it's a really useful concept for us all to think about.

There are a lot of existing circular economy activities in our municipality and the action plan picks up on a lot of those and I'd like to mention as well something that I think has been missed out a little bit in the Circular Economy Action Plan that I've talked about before which is rural activities, farming activities, and I'm really proud of the farming communities in our municipality that are world leaders in agro forestry and very, very diverse farming activities that are real circular economy highlights.

A few other things that I'd like to mention is that there's a lot of detail about waste disposal and noting that the costs of waste disposal are rising quite

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dramatically and they're a major issue for us and that landfill is the most important. So where it talks about 53% of waste in our red bins being recoverable, that's not just a shame. It's really costly. The cost of all that extra tonnage of waste which should be being diverted into other streams is costing ratepayers a lot of money and so I support the education and monitoring actions that are in the action plan to try to tackle that.

32% of recycling bin content is contamination, so there again we have a major education issue. I'm just kind of skimming to save some time here. I also want to just pay respect to the Anglesea Resale Shed, which is an example in there, and to former Councillor Jim Tutt, who was here earlier on, but has left; also our local op shops; Feed Me Surf Coast; local business who are very involved in circular economy, the biggest of which is probably Patagonia, who's a world leader in circular economy; the Regional Recycling Organics Network from Barwon Water, which we hope will get up and running and is going to be a huge game changer in the circular economy space in our shire. Recycled water we've talked about a little bit already today, noting that's a top strategic priority for G21. I'll leave it there.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Stapleton, would you like to speak?

CR STAPLETON: Thanks, Mayor. Some say that moving to a circular economy is just as important or more so than reaching net zero carbon emissions. The two goals are obviously intertwined and essential and that's why I'm really so excited to see this Circular Economy Action Plan come to Council for adoption, reinforcing and enhancing our response to the climate emergency. Transition to a circular economy is already happening around the world and essentially means moving from a linear way of using and disposing of waste to a circular path that involves avoiding waste, keeping valuable resources in use for as long as possible and regenerating nature.

Congratulations to officers who developed this action plan. It's a really inspiring document and I can see it will lead to tangible change in the way we approach waste. While Council has developed the action plan to lead this work, our community has shown over many years how highly motivated it is to do more in this space. Actions such as sharing, loaning, reusing, repurposing, et cetera, are all a key part of the transition to a circular economy.

Along with the very successful Repair Cafe in Aireys Inlet, we see many in our community trying to do more to consume less and repurpose what we think of as waste. We have the Sewing for a Purpose group in Anglesea, we have

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creative residents who upcycle old clothes and other materials to make items they can sell at local markets, we have a thriving op shop scene and award-winning retail shed and there has been a suggestion for a Surf Coast library of things, which we're discussing next on tonight's agenda.

Just last week one of our local residents, and a shoutout to Michelle, who's joined us here in the room tonight, Michelle posted in some of our local community Facebook groups a suggestion to set up a group to explore ideas to reduce textile waste with a view to educating and teaching others in the community about how to sew, repair and repurpose their garments. There's been a huge response to this already and judging by that, it seems that many residents are ready to get on board and do more to contribute to a Surf Coast circular economy.

Of course, achieving this will take more than positive action by our community and we know that a strategic coordinated effort will be needed by all levels of government, businesses, visitors and industry to successfully transition to a circular economy. The action plan details 25 actions across five key priority areas which I urge people to have a read through. Some will be motivated to do this through social and environmental imperatives. Others we know are more driven by economic outcomes and, fortunately, this plan provides good news for both.

As well as the significant environmental benefits, transitioning to a circular economy will also have clear economic benefits. One example is the waste levy paid for all waste received at regional landfills, which rose from just over \$33 per tonne in 2019-2020 to more than \$66 per tonne in 2024-25, obviously a 100% increase, and this levy will increase to almost \$85 per tonne in 2025-26. So it's in all our interests to get better at recovering resources and avoid sending waste to landfill, thereby reducing waste management costs for Council and ultimately the charges paid by the community.

Bega in New South Wales is on a similar path and I saw an ABC story reported this week that the Bega Group's dairy factory saved itself \$200,000 a year in landfill fees by running the factory boiler on wood waste with the fly ash residue used as a lime replacement on pastures. It's this kind of innovation that will save money for our businesses, communities and governments, while helping to restore nature and hopefully save the planet. So let's get on to it. Thank you.

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CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillors like to speak?
Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. There is no doubt that in Australia, like all developed economies, we live in a high-consuming and wasteful society that comes with a sense of entitlement. However, I do sense that there are significant changes in community expectations, some of these highlighted by Councillors Stapleton and Bodsworth.

This plan is the Council's first strategic waste and circular economy plan and it has been available for public consultation and I'd like to note that it has gained overall community support with some minor tweaking.

A lot of what I've got here has been said, but I would like to also highlight the fact that I think the circular economy model I do believe fosters innovation, as Councillor Stapleton gave an example, leading to improved productivity, which in turn helps to create new business opportunities and jobs.

Look, support for this is a no-brainer and I thank the Environment and Sustainability team responsible for its development and I look forward to its implementation. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. This is market interference plain and simple. It relies on funding from State and Federal Governments, governments that are up to their eyeballs in debt, are essentially broke and are not reliable funding partners. So to be setting up a plan that relies on them funding is economic lunacy.

While I share the desire to better utilise resources to the point of actually taking clothes into Melbourne to dispose of them to like a textiles waste management place, doing it in this manner I think is an abuse of ratepayers' money. Government doesn't need to be in this space.

I'm of the firm view that if an idea has merit and it's valued, individuals will voluntarily make it happen. You could expand that into what we do more broadly here, but we're talking about this for now. We can't even get all of our residents to use the four-bin system properly. When we get that sorted, then I think we can aim for more aspirational goals.

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CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. Look, you know, the concept of circular economy, it's a new terminology, but it's a very, very old concept, you know, and generations - not too many generations back when Australia was not as prosperous as it currently is people lived like this because they had to. So they didn't consume a great deal, they, you know, recycled, reused, repaired and did without, basically, and there is a great movement back towards that. I see that with my own family, with my sons who are now - one of them in particular absolutely lives his life like this and, you know, really thinks carefully before buying anything and buys only natural materials and, you know, the kids sort of - the whole economy of recirculating clothes, children's clothes, which are often not worn out, certainly for little ones (inaudible). So this is all - you know, it is happening in our society anyway.

From my perspective, Council should, and does within this action plan, focus on the issues that are within its both influence and responsibility. So certainly making sure that we do as much as we can to get our four-bin system used properly, that's really important, making sure that we've got a reduction in waste to the very greatest extent achievable so that we're not, you know, continuing to fill landfill at an unsustainable rate. So all of that is extremely important, very much our responsibility.

Again, this will join the other 120 or probably now 130 plans and policies of which I'm aware. At one point I think the CEO counted them all up and it was 120, but we've got more than that now because every Council meeting we're endorsing more and more and more plans and policies. I don't think we're able to keep up with them all.

I think that the initial parts of this plan under the strategic priorities of maximising reuse, avoiding waste, innovation and collaboration, they're really core to discuss. Creating systems change and advocacy, I would rather see us focusing on our roads and making sure we're using sustainable products on our roads, for example, rather than going out with a broad sort of (inaudible) leadership in Australia or the world. We're a player in this, a very small player. We need to do what we do really well, what we're responsible for, but stop trying to play above our (inaudible) really.

So I note it and I think some really good concepts in it, but again, I think there's a lot of potential overreach and diversion of resources. There's a lot of things in here that talk about using existing resources. That means diverting

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existing resources from other responsibilities of Council (inaudible). But I'm happy to support (inaudible).

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: No, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And all those opposed. And the motion is carried 7-1.

We now move on to item 4.5, Library of Things. This report relates to provide an update on the Library of Things project and present a proposal for consideration to support the establishment of a Library of Things in Surf Coast Shire. Do we have a mover of a motion?

CR WELLINGTON: Can I check, Mayor Pattison, before we put the motion?

CR PATTISON: Yes, sure.

CR WELLINGTON: I just wonder where this came from. I know we've talked about it previously and we obviously put some money aside for it, but can somebody remind me what the imperative for doing this is? Did we get someone wanting to do it looking for --

CR PATTISON: The money has been put aside for some time and it has been progressed - there's a number of community groups and the like that have been contacting and trying to progress this, so it has come from the community wanting to continue with this.

CR WELLINGTON: Can the community wear - I mean - yes, like where is it generated from? We're talking about \$20,000.

CR PATTISON: The money has been set aside. So I think let's move through the debate and probably some of these questions could be responded and we can always follow up at a later date.

CR WELLINGTON: Maybe the officers could tell me where it's come from.

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I did actually have a similar question I'd like to ask.

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CR PATTISON: Sure, I'll pass it on to Damian, Mr Waight, through the CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Councillor Wellington, this originally came through our Community Development Program and it came from actually within this ward in Anglesea, strong interest from some residents in Aireys Inlet and Anglesea who are currently associated with the Repair Cafe who saw value in a concept like this is my kind of understanding of the history and Council made a decision - those community members didn't feel that they had capacity to deliver a Library of Things themselves and were seeking Council, the regional library or someone else to deliver a Library of Things.

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you.

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor Pattison, I just had a question that's similar. I thought this money was from a grant that we received externally.

CR PATTISON: No.

CR SCHONFELDER: So it's a grant that we're providing. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Through the report, if it's endorsed, yes. So we now - can we have a mover, please? Councillor Stapleton. And a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth. Would you like to speak to the motion?

CR STAPLETON: Thank you, Mayor, and I can just add some additional context about the money. I think it originally actually came to Council through a budget submission process and through that process it was agreed to allocate \$20,000, initially the idea being towards a feasibility study, but then it went into the Community Development Program and has evolved from there.

I think it fits in with our previous item to adopt the Circular Economy Action Plan and as we've discussed, it's an idea that first came to Council from local residents a few years back seeking support for a feasibility study to set up a Library of Things on the Surf Coast. The \$20,000 was allocated to provide capacity for future work while officers undertook additional research and there's many online resources that I know they've been able to utilise as well as speaking with a variety of stakeholders.

The idea, for those that don't know, behind a Library of Things is essentially to have a community sharing items that are only sort of needed to be used occasionally. It could be tools, kitchen appliances, various household items,

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games, electronic gadgets, and so on. The list of things that could be shared is only limited by our imagination.

Apart from the environmental benefits of reducing waste and maximising more resource recovery, there are also social and economic benefits that can be achieved through a Library of Things. It can strengthen community connections by providing them with a common purpose. It lowers household costs, reduces storage requirements in people's homes, and provides more equity in the community by creating access to expensive items that some people may not be able to afford, and providing an opportunity for people to learn new skills. The creation of a Library of Things on the Surf Coast would also support key strategies in the Council plan and enable our community to take action and to take the lead on things that they care about.

Officer research indicates that a community-led Library of Things model is most common, but it would require dedicated leadership, strong community interest and high participation to be successful. I think the \$20,000 that's already been allocated can be used to help achieve this and I think it will provide a strong indication of whether the community support exists to actually drive a Library of Things. It would be a once-off grant to help with the establishment of the Library of Things and used for the initial set-up and running costs.

I understand that Council officers can offer some support to the group in the forms of the community survey promotion and helping them connect to other grants and community initiatives and the idea of the survey would be that it's undertaken before the grant process opens to help those who might be interested to understand more about what level of community interest exists, where supporters are located, items of interest to loan, and some logistical things around opening hours, dates, location, and so on.

I think it's a great idea. I'd really like to thank those residents who got the ball rolling and planted the seed for a Library of Things. I'm really hopeful that there are others out there in the community who recognise the great potential to apply for a \$20,000 grant and to make this happen for the Surf Coast. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Would any other Councillor - Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks to Councillor Stapleton. I agree with her on that.

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One thing I notice is this is a very focused proposal. It's using already allocated funds to enable community or to test and enable community aspirations for a Library of Things. We already have some libraries of things, of course, in the form of toy libraries which are highly successful and libraries of books and libraries, as the Mayor well knows, are moving into the Library of Things space. The Geelong regional library has some thermal imaging cameras, for example, to help people identify heat loss issues with their homes and things like that, as an example.

I first heard about this in this precinct at the Anglesea Community House in 2021 with the working group, Joe Murray, Phil Martin and Margot Smith, and so I pay my respect to them for their championing of this Library of Things proposal.

I know that staff have discussed it with members of the original working group and that they are sort of open to it, cautiously supportive of it, and they recognise that a community model could be the way to go. So this is a great opportunity to test that and in view of how the test turns out, move forward. Great background work too. Thanks.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Schonfelder, would you like to speak?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, yes, please. I was under the impression that this funding was from an external grant. I wasn't aware it was coming from internal funds that we had and I'm mindful of the fact that many Councils don't have a Library of Things initiative, only a minority do. I could actually ask how many. Do we know how many Councils are involved with this because I think it's just Merri-bek. I'm not sure if we know offhand.

CR PATTISON: There's plenty internationally as well and in other states.

CR SCHONFELDER: I'm just talking about within the state of Victoria.

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: I can't give you the exact number unless the General Manager of Placemaking & Environment can let you know, but there is some information around a number of Councils within Victoria and more broadly listed in the reports and, from memory, there's Ballarat and a couple of others that are in the reports, Councillor Schonfelder.

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CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you very much. I would like to keep speaking, if I may, Mayor Pattison.

CR PATTISON: Yes, that's alright.

CR SCHONFELDER: I think it's a wonderful initiative and I would love to support it, but sadly enough, we've had very major infrastructure projects that have run over budget and we can't be all things to all people, and I know that on Facebook there are different groups that share tools and liaise with each other, so I'm afraid that I think there are other priorities. Like I was told that we don't have enough money or having Christmas decorations is not a priority. Well, I think \$20,000 would go a long way towards having Christmas decorations and lifting people's spirits in our community, which other Councils do.

So I'm afraid that we need to tighten the belt, and perhaps Councillor Barker is rubbing off on me with his viewpoints which have actually materialised and I know that Councillor Wellington as well is aware of potholes on roads and even Councillor Bodsworth is a great advocate for active transport and having bike paths. \$20,000 I think would go a long way elsewhere. So I'm afraid that I won't be supporting this item.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Wellington, would you like to speak to the motion?

CR WELLINGTON: Yes, look, I'm in the same category as that. I'm a bit surprised we put this \$20,000 away. I think we must have been exhausted and tired and just thought oh, we'll approve the \$20,000 and deal with it later.

But really, you know, look, it's a great concept, you know, and communities have established themselves for decades shared facilities. In the rural areas of the shire even now there's a lot of informal sharing within communities where, particularly in the farming community, somebody will have a front-end loader and somebody has got something else and people share and move around because they're all too expensive to buy individually, but that's a community function which should happen within communities.

The libraries, there's a very small number in Victoria. Some of them have closed. I think some of them have got very specific focus. The fact that we have to go and - if you look at the feasibility report, it puts up lots of red flags about how difficult this is. It is incredibly difficult to get volunteers across the

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shire now, we've got a real problem with volunteerism, and to get something sustainable, to put \$20,000 in, you know, to get something sustainable, I think it's probably going to be a long shot. I think if people have got ideas within existing groups they should put in for community grants and demonstrate that they've got the volunteers, that they've got the feasible business proposal.

I mean, we've also got hiring businesses within the communities. I see there are libraries of things for party supplies and kitchen supplies and things, but there are also businesses that do that that contribute to this, you know, efficiency within the economy and I don't know where they sit in all this, but you can hire all your stuff for a party. You know, there's viable businesses that do that.

I just think this is a solution looking for a problem really. It's not really clear to me how we've got to this point. We've done a huge amount of work, obviously, that's good work and it gives us plenty of warning signals to say, you know, there's lots of barriers to this. I just can't see (inaudible). It's not (inaudible) for me at all at this point and I'm not going to support it. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Oh, you can let Councillor Allen go.

CR ALLEN: It's alright.

CR BARKER: As I've touched on before, I think we have far too many policies and services. While I support the idea of a Library of Things in concept, I don't think we as a Council should be involved in it.

With no pressing need, I won't be supporting this recommendation. What I would strongly encourage, though, is community members who value this to run this voluntarily.

I'll also add that shared responsibility creates no responsibility. By having a suppository of things that users don't own, they won't be respected the same way as if they were owned by the user or they are paying a market rate for their use. A case in point is our roads. They're a shared item that is in poor condition due to insufficient responsibility being taken as they're in public ownership and I think if there's little things going around house to house, I

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think they're going to get abused more than they're going to get cared for. So I won't be supporting the motion.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Allen, would you like to speak?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. Look, if supported, the Library of Things is consistent with the circular economy. It dovetails beautifully into its objectives. \$20,000 of money is needed to support further investigation to evaluate the level of public interest and I agree with Councillor Wellington, my biggest concern is sustainability. Do you have a permanent base or a mobile service? I mean, the Repair Cafe, for example, operates if there are people with skills who are willing to assist, but the location is flexible and it does move.

A facility dedicated to the purpose of a Library of Things to my mind is a bigger step. I think that there are many possibilities with underutilised Council-owned facilities, but it is a huge step to get acceptance after years of commitment of time, resources and emotion that are put into them by the current users, but I do think there's a lot of potential there with underutilised facilities.

Opportunities to share a facility is an option to consider, but again, willingness is a problem. I think the \$20,000 can be used to address these matters and more and hopefully to bring this excellent project to a reality. If it is successful, then I think the benefits to the community justify the \$20,000.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: I guess I'd just add that the idea of the grant is to, I guess, test whether there is enough community support to run with this. I think that the Library of Things does offer great potential, but as has been pointed out, it requires a lot of resources and energy and endeavour and I think the \$20,000 would be well spent if we can find the people in the community that are willing and able to do that. So, yes, hopefully Councillors support it.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried 5-8 - 5-3, a total of 8. Sorry, it's 9.20, I'm feeling a little tired. Apologies. It's carried.

CR WELLINGTON: Can I just ask why it's only eight people voting? Haven't we got 9 in the room?

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CR PATTISON: Rose left - Councillor Hodge left quite some time ago because she's unwell.

We will now move on to - no worries. Thank you for staying as long as you have. We now move on to item 4.6, SCS-055 Sustainable Design Policy. The purpose of this report is to present the revised SCS-0555 Sustainable Design Policy to Council for adoption. We have a recommendation before us. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Bodsworth. And a seconder? Councillor Stapleton.

CR WELLINGTON: I have a question before we debate.

CR PATTISON: Yes, sure.

CR WELLINGTON: So on page 268 of the agenda, in point 10, it says, "Consultation with the Green Building Council of Australia indicated a benchmark of 5 star is typically aimed for across local government projects" and they recommend that we lower our aspirations from six star to five star for larger projects, but I did seek more information from officers this morning about what the Green Building Council of Australia actually said and what I was told did not accord with that and I feel that's quite misleading, unless I'm misreading this. But what I was told they said was, in quotation marks --

CR PATTISON: We all received that same email. Did you have a specific question?

CR WELLINGTON: Well, my question is the ESD - according to this, the ESD policy sets a requirement for achieving four-star green star certification and encourages aiming for five or six stars if possible. Now, that's not what the report says and I feel that report is quite misleading. It says that they recommended that we go for five star and they didn't.

CR PATTISON: And so your question is, Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Is my interpretation correct? Why is that report --

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that one through our CEO. Thanks for the question.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Councillor Wellington --

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CR WELLINGTON: The report says that they recommend it going to five star and that's not what I read and I just want to know why.

CR PATTISON: Yes, we'll pass that to our CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: Thanks, Councillor Wellington. I'll just refer that to our General Manager of Placemaking & Environment to respond to.

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: So through you, Mayor, and thanks for the inquiry earlier today, Councillor Wellington, and effectively it's wrong. What's in the report is wrong. If I can read out the advice that went to Councillors, the information that came from the Green Building Council of Australia advised us that "We absolutely applaud Surf Coast Shire Council's commitment to sustainability and leadership, but I would suggest that you consider the ESD policy sets a requirement for achieving four-star green star certification for projects over the specified threshold. That encourages aiming for five or six star outcomes if possible." So the information in that paragraph within the report is incorrect.

CR WELLINGTON: What it says is we should be aiming for five when in fact they said we should be aiming for four, is that correct?

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: Yes, that's correct.

CR WELLINGTON: I'm quite disappointed at that because that's a really significant point.

CR PATTISON: Thanks for raising that question. We'll now move on with the discussion and you're welcome to raise it further in your debate. Councillor Bodsworth, would you like to speak?

CR BODSWORTH: Thanks, Mayor. So this is an important policy to drive environmentally sustainable design outcomes in Council facilities. This is a review and revision of a previous policy.

The revision broadens the scope. It adds tender-ready, sustainable design criteria. It's aligned with the Circular Economy Action Plan and, as Councillor Wellington has noted, although with some conjecture still there, it guides us towards more realistic but still highly impactful green star requirements.

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It provides - oh, sorry, there's also another issue that has been of interest to Council, but also of particular interest to the Audit and Risk Committee that I wanted to mention with this which is around quality assurance for assets developed by developers and handed over for Council ownership once the developments are complete. That's an essential sustainable design consideration. It is mentioned in this policy and it's included - just noting that it's included in the scope of an upcoming internal audit. That's all I had on this one.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Stapleton?

CR STAPLETON: Thanks, Mayor. This is another great report to be receiving tonight and further demonstration of Council's leadership in environmental action and climate change mitigation adaptation.

This policy was initially created as the Environmentally Sustainable Council Facilities Policy almost three years ago and now that it's up for review, officers have taken the opportunity to change the name to the Sustainable Design Policy to reflect the increased scope which now includes civil works, open space and smaller building projects as well as new buildings and renewals.

It's a really well-considered and meaningful policy that will lead to positive change embedding environmentally sustainable design, or ESD, considerations across the organisation. There are 16 targeted design elements that are part of Council's ESD standards, ranging from energy efficiency and carbon neutral buildings to water harvesting and stormwater treatment, recycled materials, waste management and more. This will help to ensure all new major Council facilities are carbon neutral developments over the entire facility life cycle and promote efficient use of resources such as electricity, water and construction materials.

As well as delivering better environmental performance, the policy should also result in greater comfort and wellbeing for those using our facilities - hopefully everyone is warm enough in here tonight - reducing running costs for Council assets, and will result in buildings that have been purposefully designed to be resilient in the face of increasing climate-related disasters.

It's also great to see the addition of sustainable design criteria to be included in project tender documentation and a requirement for ESD allowance to be included in budgets for new buildings and upgrade or renewal projects. This will just help to ensure that these ESD costs are being factored in from the

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outset and it's in response to stakeholder feedback that there were challenges in achieving widespread policy compliance due in part to a lack of understanding of ESD costs upfront.

Look, just noting the change in the green star building certification from six star to five star as proposed in the report also helps to address some of the cost pressures associated with achieving this world-class leadership standard, so six star is world class, while still enabling Council to uphold its environmental commitments. We understand that a five star standard is aligned with industry and sector best practice and it is the benchmark required to achieve Australian excellence, which I think we should be aiming for. I'm really pleased to see this new and improved version of the policy come to Council for adoption and it has my full support. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak? Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. Look, one of the important outcomes from the stakeholder consultation is the recognition of the need to strengthen landscaping planning in the policy. The Stribling Reserve in Lorne is the classic case, where \$20,000 was allocated initially which has proven to be totally inadequate given the topography of the site and the drainage implications of inappropriate landscaping, so I'm very pleased to see that highlighted as a result of the stakeholder consultation. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank. Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion? Councillor Wellington?

CR WELLINGTON: Thank you. Yes, look, table 2 actually sets out all of the standards and ratings that Council would be aspiring - sorry, table 3, that Council would be aspiring to and a lot of them are really sensible and obviously highly supportable.

My concern with this policy is twofold. Number one, it's based on an incorrect premise which is that premise about Council being required to - about expectations that Council would aspire to five star. There's a cost associated with this and that statement is incorrect and if I hadn't asked for the source document, that wouldn't have been picked up and I'm really quite concerned about the premise of that's what we need to do is actually incorrect.

I'm not saying it wouldn't be a great thing to get five-star rating on every major project that we do, but we're seeing with the aquatic centre the cost of

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this is enormous and people are paying for it through their rates. I think we need to have a clear understanding of the cost when we commit to this. We're accepting a whole lot of standards here. We have no idea what the cost implications are for our operations and what that will mean. There's a very broad statement in this paper about it will all be good because it will result in lower operating costs. There's absolutely no analysis or presentation of that at all.

I cannot support it on that basis, although I obviously support as much effort that we can do to achieve environmental sustainability while keeping things affordable and realistic for the community. We are not going to solve the world by sending our Council broke and denying our community access to good roads while we spend money on offshore carbon credits that may or may not actually make any difference at all, and we are doing some of that at the moment. I'm aware of that.

You know, aiming for five star and being told that's what we should be achieving when in fact that's not the advice given to us, I'm extremely disappointed in that. I realise that's probably a mistake. I'm not suggesting it was intentional, but it's a very bad mistake, in my view, that leads this council to make decisions based on wrong premises.

So I think it would be great if we could do all this and it would be great if we could do all this in a cost-neutral way. I've got no idea whether we can or not. I doubt that we can and I think there will be significant costs associated with it as we have found with the aquatic centre and I don't believe we can responsibly adopt this policy in that context. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor. This policy is a result of the implementation of our Climate Emergency Response Plan, something that started out at around half a million dollars per year, but it's on its way to costing us around \$1 million per year. You couldn't get me to support this policy even if you paid me that sort of money. It doesn't consider current economic conditions and it doesn't respect ratepayers' money and I won't support it.

For greater context, we here in the Surf Coast are responsible for one one-thousandth of one per cent of global emissions. Spending such huge figures on such a small drop in the ocean is a waste. A policy that reflects economic considerations for design is something that I could support.

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Hearing about those carbon offsets that we do that we don't actually really know if they work just shows that we're aiming for an ideology without any consideration for the costs or any consideration for the veracity of what we're getting involved with. If you want to continue down that path, go ahead and vote for it. I won't be.

CR PATTISON: Any closing remarks, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: No, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And opposed? And the motion is carried 6-2.

We now move on to 4.7, Geelong Regional Libraries Corporation - Future Model. The purpose of this report is for Council to note the Geelong Regional Library Corporation recommendation to proceed transitioning to an alternative enterprise business model. Do we have a motion? Councillor Schonfelder - as per the recommendation?

CR SCHONFELDER: As per the recommendation.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Bodsworth. Would you like to speak, Councillor Schonfelder?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please, Mayor. I don't know if it's presumptuous of me to say this, but I imagine you would actually like to move this motion, given your interest in libraries and the wonderful work you're doing as the Chair of the Geelong Regional Library Corporation.

I'll just note the fact that the Local Government Act 2020 requires regional library corporations to transition to a new enterprise model by 30 June 2031, so this is, I'd say, probably about seven years in the making and I think it's very wise to have this transition over a longer period of time.

I'd like to note the fact that the libraries provide such an important service to our local communities and when it comes to revitalising central activity districts, libraries are so important and it's more than just borrowing books. People meet in libraries for different functions and also after school care in some regards too. I know that I have spent a lot of time in libraries myself

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and I remember at university there was one in particular where there was no talking aloud, which I really enjoyed, I might add.

So I do enjoy looking at other libraries around the world and during the briefing on this I mentioned that Bryant Park at the rear of the public library in New York City has a beautiful restaurant in it and libraries like the one in the City of Geelong have cafes and they're able to raise revenue in that regard and increase their revenue streams.

I think it also adds to the culture of our society with museums and art galleries also incorporated in some libraries and the Melbourne Library, of course, the State Library is such an impressive institution and I am a great advocate for libraries. I know - I recall that our CEO visited Christchurch and they have a new library and I was quite envious of the very modern and futuristic design of it and it gave me ideas for the Torquay Library, and I note that Armstrong Creek will be having an opening of their new library shortly and that's very exciting and it's great for our communities, both here within the Surf Coast and our neighbouring municipalities such as the City of Greater Geelong. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Bodsworth, would you like to speak?

CR BODSWORTH: No, I won't, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Any other Councillors? Any closing remarks?

CR SCHONFELDER: No, thank you.

CR PATTISON: I put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to item 4.8, Audit and Risk Committee Biannual Activity Report. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the activities of the Audit and Risk Committee from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 as prescribed by section 54(5) of the Local Government Act 2020. We have a recommendation before us. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Bodsworth - as per the recommendation?

CR BODSWORTH: Yes, thanks, Mayor.

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CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Allen. Would you like to speak, Councillor Bodsworth?

CR BODSWORTH: Mayor, I'd just like to say that I assume that Councillors have all read the report and I just commend the work that the Audit and Risk Committee does. It's a highly professional committee, incredible attention to detail. Thanks to Councillor Wellington as well for being my fellow Councillor rep on the committee. I'm sure she'd agree with that.

So, no, I don't really have anything to add. Councillors received a briefing recently from the committee chair, Mick Ulbricht and, sorry, I have a note about point 5. Yes, just about - sorry, the advisory - just the role the Audit and Risk Committee being an advisory committee of Council which is responsible for providing structured and systematic oversight over Council's governance risk management and internal control practices. The committee's scope, functions and responsibilities are set out in its charter, which is adopted by Council. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Allen, would you like to speak?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor. I applaud the inclusion as a standing agenda item updates on the Council cyber and information security and I also note that the committee is monitoring the recently updated risk management plan that in the words of the report is to ensure that its maturity progresses.

I sense that in local government we are becoming risk averse. I understand the need in major management areas like finance. However, I would like to see spot checks carried out to see that smaller projects are not adversely affected.

I wish to thank Councillors who serve on the Audit and Risk Committee. In my time as a Councillor, they are Councillors Barker, Bodsworth and Wellington. The additional work that they undertake as a committee member is significant and I wish to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to Councillor Wellington, who we know is not restanding, who has been in this role for the entire term. I find it very reassuring to have a Councillor who has read the information thoroughly and understands the breadth and complexity of the matters reviewed by the committee and I thank her for her contribution.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak to the motion? Councillor Wellington?

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CR WELLINGTON: Thanks, Councillor Allen, for that. I thoroughly enjoyed my time on that committee. It is a very well composed committee. The people who are members of it (inaudible) committed and very much across the work that they do.

I think that the risk framework has matured over the time that I've been on that committee and it's been driven by others on the committee. You know, the independent members have really driven the need to put more meat on the bones of the risk framework. I don't know that it necessarily means we're becoming more risk averse, but I think what it does mean is we understand our risk better and we can then make decisions about whether or not on behalf of the community we accept them. So I think that's been really worthwhile work to be done by the committee.

I do have a word - to me the committee - if you look at point 7 on page 298, the committee looks at a lot of Council's policies, but the focus of this work is compliance with the law. It's not - we often have the habit in this Council of saying oh, it's gone through Audit and Risk and therefore it must be a good policy. That's not correct because they're not looking at - often not looking at the composition of the policy, what's in the policy. They're looking at whether or not the policy is consistent with what's required by the law - whether it's compliant, not whether it's good. I think this Council needs to remember that, the responsibility for the policy content sits with the Council, not with the Audit and Risk Committee, although occasionally they do make comments. I think that's an important point for Council to remember.

The committee has increased the frequency of its meetings, which just shows the scope and volume of work that it's doing. It is very efficient.

I would like to see more audits done. At the end of the day, you can have as good a suite of policies as you like, but unless you comply with them and apply them and really interpret them in the way that they're intended, you won't make a difference in how the organisation operates. I am constantly seeing policies that come through that say oh, we do this and we do that and I know for a fact as a Councillor that we often (inaudible) the consequences of that from community (inaudible). You know, I'm often making that point to the audit committee, (inaudible) policy that says that, do we actually do it? That's where audit comes in and I think over time we need to get more resources, probably, into operational audit. As the organisation grows, there's more to be checked, are we complying with those policies that we have put in place?

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Anyway, it's been a pleasure being on that committee. I've really enjoyed it and it's one aspect of Council that I will miss significantly. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Yes, thanks for the provision of the report. It's all mostly pretty sound. The main issue that I did want to raise is a slight amendment to be corrected before we pass it on page 297. Can that be amended?

CR PATTISON: Yes, that's fine. I think that's administrative in nature.

CR BARKER: Thank you.

CR WELLINGTON: What is that, what is the amendment?

CR BARKER: Oh, it's just some dates are incorrect.

CR PATTISON: It's an administrative change, Councillor Wellington, which can be amended in the minutes.

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I'd just --

CR PATTISON: Councillor Schonfelder, did you have a question?

CR SCHONFELDER: Not a question. I'd just like to comment and echo the sentiments from --

CR PATTISON: You'd like to speak to the motion?

CR SCHONFELDER: Yes, please.

CR PATTISON: Sure.

CR SCHONFELDER: Which were purported from Councillor Allen that I have been greatly impressed by the work of the members of the Audit and Risk Committee and what I'd like to do is thank them for their contribution and it's much appreciated and wish them all the very best. Thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Bodsworth?

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CR BODSWORTH: No, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to item 4.9, Project Budget Adjustments and Cash Reserve Transfers - July 2024. The purpose of this report is to present the proposed project budget adjustments and cash reserve transfers for Council approval. The report presents adjustments including existing projects requiring adjustment, project closures, new projects to be initiated, Chief Executive Officer approved transfers under delegation or corrections to prior reports presented to Council. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Allen - as per the recommendation?

CR ALLEN: Thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Stapleton. Would you like to speak, Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: I wish to highlight two significant program budget shortfalls in Lorne that require the allocation of additional funds - firstly, the Lorne School Traffic Management Improvement stage 2 project where there are cost escalations due to weather delays, increases in material costs and latent conditions. It is recommended to transfer funds from the Roads to Recovery 23-24 allocation due to delays in completing two projects in Torquay that can be completed as part of the 24-25 Roads to Recovery Program.

Secondly, there are three projects that will either be undertaken or completed by sourcing funds from the asset renewal reserve - namely, the underpinning of the Winchelsea old library, the fire servicing renewal works required in the Torquay Multicultural Centre upgrade, and, significantly, at the Stribling Reserve basketball court due to the failed subfloor discovered when removing mould from the facility and for a replacement concrete slab and the necessary drainage improvements works of all three total \$500,000, but significantly, the Stribling Reserve basketball court. But I also note the allocation of the yearly interest earned from the grant moneys held for the construction of the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre to that project, which totals \$1,143,887. Thank you.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Councillor Stapleton?

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CR STAPLETON: Yes, I'm happy to support this. I just wanted to note one thing regarding the Anglesea Netball Pavilion redevelopment. As this project draws to a close, some savings will be returned to source, but just note that the remaining scope of items to be completed does include landscaping, officers have confirmed as well as footpath works and stormwater pit remediation, and I understand that that work will be scheduled to be done over the next month, so thank you.

CR PATTISON: Would any other Councillors like to speak?

CR SCHONFELDER: Mayor, I just have a question. I'd like to speak, but I also have a question that I'd like to pose first, if I may, and that is in relation to the basketball court at the Stribling Reserve, the flooring there, I believe it - I don't know if it was red gum, but it was quite a significant type of timber and I just wonder if that was recycled or whether that was used for public art and I'm happy to have --

CR PATTISON: I'll pass that on to the CEO.

MS ROBYN SEYMOUR: I'll refer that to the GM of Placemaking & Environment.

MR DAMIAN WAIGHT: Through you, Mayor, sadly not because of the presence of mould, it couldn't be reused.

CR SCHONFELDER: Thank you. Thank you for that update. I would just like to touch on a few projects that are quite significant and I must give my heartfelt thanks to the organisation and to the Council in relation to the Barwon River Adventure Playground in Winchelsea, the fact that planning and procurement for this project has concluded and the response to the tender has been unfavourable to budget and the fact that an additional allocation was allocated.

On behalf of the children of the Winchelsea and District and in particular the families there, I thank the Council because I know that playgrounds are so important and children love to exercise and socialise in those environments. I know I very much enjoyed attending playgrounds, including the Barwon Valley playground on Barrabool Road in Belmont, as a young child.

I'd also like to note the greenfield trail in Moriac, the importance of that for mental health and for walkability and once again, with COVID, more people - I noticed more people went out walking and I think that the Jesuits had a saying

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that if you change a habit I think for a month or two months, you change it for a lifetime and that's an example of that, healthy living and active transport.

Finally, Mayor, I'd like to say that the Winchelsea RSL, I've noticed that there's money being spent on a historic grandstand there and I recall 23 years ago playing for Winchelsea and being wolf whistled while I was playing there. I think I was 23 kilos thinner, possibly, but sadly I don't think I'm wolf whistled anymore, but one lives in hope. But I know that that facility with the RSL is so important and I'm very pleased about that, so thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. And would any other Councillors like to speak?
Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: Thanks, Mayor, very briefly. There's too much funding from the State Government for areas that our responsibility. If it's our responsibility, we should pay for it, not rely on others. Additionally, it appears there's been a poor tender management process that's resulting in an increased cost to ratepayers to the tune of \$160,000, which I think is very disappointing.

CR PATTISON: Thank you. Any closing remarks, Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: No, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. Sorry, I can't see you, Councillor Barker. Can you just sit forward? Thanks. And all those opposed? And the motion is carried 7-1.

We now move on to item 4.10, Councillor Expenses and Attendance at Meetings - April 24 to June 24 Quarter. The purpose of this report is to present a report of Councillor allowances, expenses and attendance at meetings for the June 24 quarter. Do we have a mover of a motion?
Councillor Barker - as per the recommendation?

CR BARKER: Yes, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: And a seconder? Councillor Stapleton. Would you like to speak, Councillor Barker?

CR BARKER: No, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: Would you like to speak, Councillor Stapleton?

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CR STAPLETON: No, thanks, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

We now move on to Conflict of Interest Records. The purpose of this report is to present conflict of interest records received since the previous Council meeting. Do we have a mover of a motion? Councillor Schonfelder - as per the recommendation? And a seconder? Councillor Allen. Would you like to speak?

CR SCHONFELDER: I reserve my right, thank you.

CR PATTISON: Would you like to speak, Councillor Allen?

CR ALLEN: No, thank you, Mayor.

CR PATTISON: We'll now put the motion to the vote. All those in favour. And the motion is carried unanimously.

Next up we have a confidential item to consider, so we'll now need to close the meeting to the public and end our live stream. I wish to thank everyone who has joined us tonight. Thank you for the lone remaining person here, thank you for staying the time, and good night to those online. Thank you very much.