



CITY OF HOBART

AGENDA

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Open Portion

Thursday, 19 May 2022

at 5:15 pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall

THE MISSION

Working together to make Hobart a better place for the community.

THE VALUES

The Council is:

People	We care about people – our community, our customers and colleagues.
Teamwork	We collaborate both within the organisation and with external stakeholders drawing on skills and expertise for the benefit of our community.
Focus and Direction	We have clear goals and plans to achieve sustainable social, environmental and economic outcomes for the Hobart community.
Creativity and Innovation	We embrace new approaches and continuously improve to achieve better outcomes for our community.
Accountability	We are transparent, work to high ethical and professional standards and are accountable for delivering outcomes for our community.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Business listed on the agenda is to be conducted in the order in which it is set out, unless the committee by simple majority determines otherwise.

APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY	4
2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	4
3. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS	4
4. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	5
5. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS.....	5
6. REPORT	6
6.1 Nature Strip Policy	6
7. COMMITTEE ACTION STATUS REPORT	23
7.1 Committee Actions - Status Report.....	23
8. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.....	30
8.1 Protection of Council / Public Land	31
8.2 New Town Sports Precinct Funding	33
9. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	35
10. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING.....	36

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting (Open Portion) held Thursday, 19 May 2022 at 5:15 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

This meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee is held in accordance with a Notice issued by the Premier on 3 April 2020 under section 18 of the *COVID-19 Disease Emergency (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2020*.

The title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant s.61 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (Tas).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Alderman J R Briscoe (Chairman)
Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor H Burnet
Alderman D C Thomas
Councillor J Fox
Councillor Dr Z E Sherlock

Apologies:

Leave of Absence: Nil.

NON-MEMBERS

Lord Mayor Councillor A M Reynolds
Alderman M Zucco
Alderman Dr P T Sexton
Councillor W F Harvey
Alderman S Behrakis
Councillor M S C Dutta
Councillor W N S Coats

1. CO-OPTION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE EVENT OF A VACANCY

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Open Portion of the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting held on [Wednesday, 13 April 2022](#), are submitted for confirming as an accurate record.

3. CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(6) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Recommendation

That the Committee resolve to deal with any supplementary items not appearing on the agenda, as reported by the Chief Executive Officer.

4. INDICATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Ref: Part 2, Regulation 8(7) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

Members of the Committee are requested to indicate where they may have any pecuniary or conflict of interest in respect to any matter appearing on the agenda, or any supplementary item to the agenda, which the Committee has resolved to deal with.

5. TRANSFER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.

A Committee may close a part of a meeting to the public where a matter to be discussed falls within 15(2) of the above regulations.

In the event that the Committee transfer an item to the closed portion, the reasons for doing so should be stated.

Are there any items which should be transferred from this agenda to the closed portion of the agenda, or from the closed to the open portion of the agenda?

6. REPORT

6.1 Nature Strip Policy File Ref: F22/18335

Report of the Program Leader Parks and Reserves, Manager Bushland Biodiversity and Waterways and the Director City Life of 29 April 2022 and attachment.

Delegation: Council

REPORT TITLE: NATURE STRIP POLICY

REPORT PROVIDED BY: Program Leader Parks and Reserves
Manager Bushland Biodiversity and Waterways
Director City Life

1. Report Purpose and Community Benefit

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to respond in detail to a question without notice put at the City Infrastructure Committee.

Question:

- 1) What is the process for seeking permission to create a nature strip garden?
- 2) Does the Council have a brochure outlining the process and what council resources are available to assist?
- 3) How many or what percentage of nature strips is the Council currently caring for?

- 1.2. As a result of this question endorsement of a Nature Strip policy is sought.

2. Report Summary

- 2.1. The Hobart City Council currently undertakes mowing of nature strip across the city where residents do not cut the nature strip adjacent to their property.
- 2.2. The current program is split into an urban program which receives four (4) cuts per year during the growing season.
- 2.3. The current cost of mowing the nature strips is \$394,212. The current contract expires in January 2023.
- 2.4. Approximately 19% of all rateable properties in Hobart have a grass nature strip. Some residents do choose to mow the nature strip adjoining their property.
- 2.5. Taking into account the residents that maintain the grassed nature strip. This leaves approximately 16.9% of rateable properties within the municipality of Hobart who receive this mowing service.
- 2.6. The service is funded by all rateable properties which means that 83% of properties do not receive this service.
- 2.7. The Council receives complaints each year and often gets requested to increase this service. If this service was to increase to meet complainant's expectations it would result in significant increases in

rates to all property owners including those that do not receive this service.

- 2.8. It is proposed that a new policy be introduced that encourages property owners to recognise the value of nature strips and to take pride in maintaining them.
- 2.9. This policy allows the City of Hobart to focus on its responsibility for the maintenance of road verges and increase the amenity value and presentation of the City of Hobart as a capital city.
- 2.10. A Special Circumstances Nature Strip Mowing Service will be provided for those unable to maintain the nature strip adjoining their property for legitimate reasons.
- 2.11. Assistance be provided for by council for residents to transition to maintaining their own nature strip. This will include loaming and reseedling, providing plants and removal of invasive weeds.
- 2.12. Guidelines for alternate treatment of nature strips will be developed including landscaping of nature strips and food gardens on nature strips as well as a list of suitable plants and trees that meet the Street Tree Strategy which do not impact upon underground and overhead services.
- 2.13. A once per year cut will remain for all unkempt nature strips to provide for bushfire protection. This will be undertaken at the commencement of the season and be completed by December in the same timeframe sued for the fuel break program.
- 2.14. It is expected that significant savings will arise at the end of the transition to the new policy through reduction in the ongoing maintenance of nature strips however an additional \$30,000 will be required to transition to the new policy in the 2022/23 financial year and for two more years to enable the physical upgrading of nature strips.
- 2.15. A promotional campaign for the new policy will require an additional \$10,000 for one year in the 2022-23 financial year to ensure all residents are aware of the policy and support.
- 2.16. An additional \$16,000 will be required by the Nursery in 2022-23 and for two more years for the supply of plants for residents who wish to make their nature strip into a garden rather than lawn.
- 2.17. It is expected that the transition to a new treatment of nature strips will provide an increasingly significant saving to Council in the out years through a reduction in contracted mowing of urban nature strips and the completion of the upgrading of nature strips in the transition to the new policy.

3. Recommendation

That:

- 1. The Nature Strip Policy, marked as attachment A to this report, be endorsed by the Council and implemented in January 2023.***
- 2. If endorsed by the Council a set of guidelines for Landscaping Nature strips and Food Gardens on Nature strips be developed.***
- 3. A comprehensive communication plan be developed and implemented with an additional \$10,000 to be allocated to the Parks and Reserves operations in the 2022-23 budget for the development of materials and advertising of the new policy.***
- 4. Additional \$30,000 be allocated to the Parks and Reserves operation budget for three years from 2022/23, for the upgrading of nature strips to assist residents to maintain them.***
- 5. An additional \$16,000 be allocated annually to the Hobart Regional Nursery Budget for additional plants to be grown to assist residents establish landscaped nature strips.***

4. Background

- 4.1. The City of Hobart currently undertakes mowing of nature strips and road verges across the city. Where residents do not cut the nature strip adjacent to their property there has been an undefined process for the Council to take on this responsibility.
- 4.2. The current mowing program is split into an urban program which receives four (4) cuts per year during the growing season and the bushland program which on average receives three (3) cuts per year determined by the amount of seasonal growth. The current contract expires on the 19th January 2023.
- 4.3. The works are undertaken by contractors for the City of Hobart with the current cost of mowing being \$394,212.
- 4.4. The contract includes mowing of centre medians, roundabouts, nature strips in front of Council properties such as parks and reserves and roadsides in areas such as the Queens Domain. The cost of the program is broken down as follows.

Total budget	\$394,212
Residential nature strips (69%)	\$272,006
Median strips and roundabouts, (27%)	\$106,437
Right of ways and walkways between streets (4%)	\$15,768

The figures were calculated using Councils GIS system and are approximate.

- 4.5. Approximately 19% of all rateable properties in Hobart have a grass nature strip. Some residents do choose to mow the nature strip adjoining their property.
- 4.6. This number includes properties that request Council does not mow their nature strip and those that have mowed their nature strips prior to the contractors getting to their property.
- 4.7. Taking into account the residents that maintain the grassed nature strip. This leaves approximately 16.9% of rateable properties within the municipality of Hobart receive this mowing service. The service is funded by all rateable properties.
- 4.8. The Council receives complaints about the timing and frequency of mowing each year during spring and summer leading up to Christmas. To increase the mowing at a level acceptable to complainants would require a 2-3 weekly service over this 6-8 month period on the average growth experienced.

This would require a minimum of 19 cuts per year resulting in an increase of \$1,478,295. To increase the service to a monthly cut during the growing season would see an increase to 10 cuts per year or \$985,530.

- 4.9. A review of other Councils in Tasmania shows that they do not provide this level of service. The common expectation is that residents whose nature strip adjoins their properties maintain the nature strip as a civic duty.

Some Councils do however offer assistance for those residents that are unable to mow their nature strip for a range of reasons such as health, disability and where there is no family assistance available to them or in cases where the road verge strip is unsafe to mow.

5. Proposal and Implementation

- 5.1. A new policy has been drafted for endorsement by Council. This policy encourages property owners to recognise the value of nature strips and to take pride in maintaining them as a civic duty as is required in other Council areas.
- 5.2. This policy allows the City of Hobart to focus on its responsibility for the maintenance of road verges and laneways and increase the amenity value and presentation of the City of Hobart as a capital city.
- 5.3. The council will continue to maintain all centre median strips, laneways, walk ways and other nature strips that are adjoining council properties. This will include the any government road that the council is obligated to maintain under the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935* and the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982*.
- 5.4. It is intended that these are maintained 9 times during the growing season which is at a higher standard than what is currently being undertaken. This allows Council to enhance the look of the city and will also set a standard that will encourage residents to also undertake the maintenance of the nature strips.
- 5.5. The policy identifies that not all residents are capable of maintaining the nature strip due to a number of reason including health, disability constraints and physical safety.
- 5.6. A special circumstances defined in the policy a nature strip mowing service will be provided at the current level of service, 4 cuts per year.
- 5.7. Eligibility for the special circumstance mowing service would include people who:
- Are a resident of the City of Hobart
 - Do not have anyone capable to perform the task on their behalf;
 - Are physically unable permanently or temporarily to operate a lawn mower; and

- Cannot afford to engage a contractor to undertake the mowing;

Or any other discretionary reasons preventing the mowing of the nature strip, as approved by the Manager Bushland, Biodiversity and Waterways.

- 5.8. All recipients of this services will be required to reapply annually to reconfirm eligibility for this service. Application forms will be sent out by the Council.
- 5.9. It is estimated that ten to fifteen percent of eligible properties will be part of this program and an estimated cost of \$60,000, costs to be reviewed annually.
- 5.10. The policy allows for alternate treatments of the nature strip including landscaping rather than grass and food gardens where appropriate.
- 5.11. The current mowing of nature strips is contracted until the 19th January 2023. It is proposed that the introduction of this policy not occur until after this contract has expired.
- 5.12. During this time community promotion will occur and guidelines for the maintenance of nature strips will be finalised. This will also give residents the opportunity to apply and their eligibility for special consideration to be assessed for inclusion in any special circumstances mowing program.
- 5.13. It is proposed to assist residents transitioning to maintain their nature strips that the council provide assistance in improving the physical surface of the nature strip. This could include top dressing with loam and seed prior to the residents taking on the maintenance of the nature strip. This would require an estimated budget of \$30,000 per annum for three financial years.

For residents wanting to landscape their nature strip the Council's nursery would grow and supply suitable plants as tube stock. The cost of production for the plants will be \$3.00 per tube stock plant and a limit of 20 plants per property will be applied for each approved applicant.
- 5.14. An allowance for 200 properties taking up the offer for plants will be allocated per year. This will be monitored and will reduce as the need declines.
- 5.15. Additionally properties with existing nature strip garden beds will receive assistance will also be eligible for up to 20 plants.
- 5.16. An allowance for 200 properties taking up the offer weed removal and plants be allocated per year.
- 5.17. An additional funding of \$16,000 will be allocated to the Hobart Regional Nursery operating budget per year for the transition period of three years to cover the costs of supply of these plants.

- 5.18. A set of guidelines for residents wishing to establish food gardens on nature strips will be developed based on the current Community Gardens Policy. This will include suitable locations, set back from roadways and driveway and height restrictions for driver safety.
- 5.19. It is noted that not all properties will take on the responsibility of mowing their nature strips. To this end, council will undertake a once per year maintenance mowing of all unkempt nature strips at the end of the growing season each year to reduce the risk of fire hazard
- 5.20. It is expected that the annual mowing of unkempt nature strips may be high in the first year and then reduce over time.
- 5.21. Mowing of unkempt nature strips and road verges in bushland to reduce fire risk would require a budget of \$30,000 in the first full year (2023/24) and then reviewed and adjusted each year.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Considerations

- 6.1. The proposal is compatible with the Capital City Strategic Plan 2019-2029:

Strategic Outcome 1.2

Hobart's cityscape reflects the heritage, culture and natural environment that make Hobart special

Strategy 1.2.6:

Develop and implement public realm design guidelines for streetscapes and public spaces that are high-quality, comfortable, vibrant, walkable and safe

Strategic Outcome 6.1:

The natural environment is part of the city and biodiversity is preserved, secure and flourishing

Strategy 6.1.3:

Protect and enhance Hobart habitats and ecosystems, in partnership with stakeholders, including wildlife corridors and waterways

Strategy 6.1.4

Protect and enhance Hobart's biodiversity and manage invasive species.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. Funding Source and Impact on Current Year Operating Result
 - 7.1.1. Nil, implementation will occur next financial year
 - 7.1.2. Current contract expires next financial year
- 7.2. Impact on Future Years' Financial Result

- 7.2.1. As a result of reallocation of money in line with this report there will be an increasing reduction on future year's allocations to this program as nature strips are managed by residents.
- 7.2.2. The implementation of the new nature strip policy will result in an additional initial cost to Council for the transition of \$56,000 in 2022-23, \$46,000 in each of 2023-24 and 2024-25 with an expected significant saving in contracted mowing costs.
 - 7.2.2.1. To assist residents in undertaking the maintenance of the grassed nature strips and additional annual allocation of \$30,000 for three financial years be allocated to the operating budget for Parks and Reserves Unit. To commence in the 2022/23 and for the three years of transition.
 - 7.2.2.2. An annual allocation of \$16,000 for the additional production of suitable plants to supply to residents to improve their nature strips. To commence in the 2022/23 operating budget for the Hobart Regional Nursery for the three years of transition
 - 7.2.2.3. An allocation of \$10,000 for the marketing and communication of the new policy be included in the Parks and Reserves operating budget for the 2022/23 financial year only.
- 7.2.3. It is expected that the additional costs would be fully offset from the savings in the reduction in nature strip mowing in subsequent years once the policy is fully implemented. The final saving figure is expected to be in the order of \$200,000 per annum.

7.3. Asset Related Implications

- 7.3.1. The quality of nature strips is expected to increase. Nature strips are not considered a financial asset and therefore will not impact on operating budgets.

8. Legal, Risk and Legislative Considerations

- 8.1. During the development of Guidelines for the maintenance of nature strips and the Food Gardens on Nature Strips the Manager Legal and Governance will be consulted to identify any needs of residents.
- 8.2. This may include the need to obtain insurance and/or occupation licences for the changing of nature strips.
- 8.3. The Council is obligated to comply with the *Roads and Jetties Act 1935* and the *Local Government (Highways) Act 1982* in development of this policy

9. Environmental Considerations

- 9.1. Encouraging the residents to use alternate treatments such as landscaping nature strips may have an impact on increase the cities biodiversity corridors between reserves.
- 9.2. This policy will assist residents in removing invasive species from nature strips reducing any future spread of invasive weeds.

10. Social and Customer Considerations

- 10.1. It is understood that this will be a significant change to a small percentage of residents of the city. It will call on their 'civic duty' to present the nature strip as an extension of their current property.
- 10.2. At present the service provided to less than 17% of all property owners in the City and is funded by all properties. 83% of property owners in the City do not receive this service.
- 10.3. Overall the introduction of this policy will enhance the liveability of the City of Hobart and its presentation as the capital city.

11. Marketing and Media

- 11.1. If the nature strip policy is endorsed by Council an extensive marketing plan will be developed and implemented.
- 11.2. Brochures and other resources including guidelines and information on how to gain Councils assistance will be developed and implemented.
- 11.3. It is estimated that costs associated with printing and advertising this policy will require funding of \$10,000

12. Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- 12.1. If endorsed by Council a comprehensive community engagement plan will be developed and implemented
- 12.2. The Principal Advisor Contract and General Procurement has been consulted regarding the current contract that is in place and the proposed new arrangements.
- 12.3. Consultation for the development of the new policy was undertaken with the Senior Parks Planner, Program Leader Arboriculture and Nursery and the Parks and Reserves Program officer

13. Delegation

- 13.1. This matter to be delegated to Council.

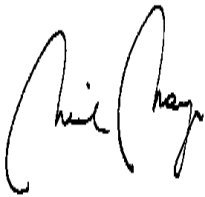
As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Peter Kerstan
**PROGRAM LEADER PARKS AND
RESERVES**



John Fisher
**MANAGER BUSHLAND BIODIVERSITY
AND WATERWAYS**



Neil Noye
DIRECTOR CITY LIFE

Date: 29 April 2022
File Reference: F22/18335

Attachment A: Nature Strip Policy ↓ 

City of Hobart

Policy

Title: Nature Strip Policy

Category:

Date Last Adopted:

1. Objectives

This document is for use by City of Hobart officers, residents, planners, developers, contractors and landscapers. It applies to all nature strips within road reserves owned and/or managed by City of Hobart.

This policy along with guidelines for nature strip maintenance and food gardens on nature strips, achieves a clear and equitable, socially responsible guidance for staff and residents outlining what is regarded as their civic duty in taking care of road reservations and nature strips.

2. Background

Achieving the community's long-term vision of creating a diverse, vibrant and liveable environment that is an attractive and safe place to live, work and play. Large trees and green spaces, including nature strips, play an important role in defining the image and culture of the City and suburbs, enhancing aesthetic appeal of our streets and facilities, maintaining urban biodiversity and increasing property values.

Nature strips are the narrow grassed or vegetated areas that are within the road reserve between the edge of the road and property boundaries.

Nature strips provide:

- unpaved areas to allow infiltration of rainwater and oxygen into the soil improving the health and growth of street trees and reducing stormwater runoff; and
- visual softening of hard streetscape elements such as roads, footpaths, driveways, fences and buildings.
- help to cool the surrounding area (transpiration by plants cools the air);
- complement the natural settings of the neighbourhood such as street trees and residential gardens;
- If vegetated, provide biodiversity corridors and fauna habitat;
- where appropriate, can provide some opportunities for food production.

- visibility and sight lines for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists particularly at intersections, curves in the road and driveway access points;
- space for people walking where there is no footpath;
- space to open doors between the road and footpath;
- space for kerbside collection for bins;
- They also commonly accommodate above and below ground services such as electricity, telecommunications, lighting, water, gas, stormwater, drainage and sewage;
- space for street tree planting;

3. Policy

General

It is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner/resident to maintain the nature strip adjacent to their property.

The City of Hobart encourages property owners to recognise the value of nature strips and to take pride in maintaining them.

Road Reservation Maintenance

The City of Hobart will maintain nature strips or road verges that meet any of the following criteria:

- Adjacent to the Council's community facilities.
- Adjacent to parks and reserves.
- Nature strips in the centre median of roads
- Nature strips that have been identified by Council as being too steep to be safely maintained by the adjacent resident
- Adjacent to State Roads, where Council is required to under section 11 of the Roads and Jetties Act
- Nature strips where the adjacent resident of the property meets the eligibility criterion for the Special Circumstance Nature strip Mowing Service.

Grass cutting of nature strips will be undertaken at the same time as mowing of adjoining property. The mowing of road verges and median strips may be undertaken using a brush cutter which provides a much coarser cut.

The Council will clean grass clippings from the footpath, driveway and gutter that results from works carried out in the maintenance of the nature strips.

Assistance for Nature Strip Mowing

The City of Hobart provides a special circumstance nature strip mowing service for eligible people who:

- Are a resident of the City of Hobart; and
- Do not have anyone capable to perform the task on their behalf; and
- Are physically unable permanently or temporarily to operate a lawnmower; and
- Cannot afford to engage a contractor to undertake the mowing;

Or any other discretionary reasons preventing mowing of the nature strip, as approved by the Manager Bushland, Biodiversity and Waterways.

Applicants requesting this nature strip mowing service must fill in the application form and have it signed by their qualified health care professional.

Once the application has been assessed, residents who meet the eligibility criteria will be entered on the Council's special circumstances nature strip mowing service list.

All recipients of this service are required to reapply annually to reconfirm eligibility. Application forms will be sent out by the Council and the service will be suspended if a response is not received.

The Council reserves the right to remove any person from the nature strip special circumstances mowing service mowing list at any time with four weeks written notice, if any of the following occur:

- The person sells or otherwise transfers their interest in the property, and/or ceases to occupy the property;
- The circumstances of the owner / occupier of the property change dramatically, such that the person no longer meets the eligibility criteria stated in this policy;
- The person fails to report any changes in their circumstances, which could make them ineligible for inclusion on the nature strip mowing list; or
- Council deems that the person no longer meets the eligibility criteria stated in this policy.

The Council reserves the right to take special conditions into consideration, other than those listed above.

The nature strip mowing service does not provide a guaranteed mowing frequency and site visits under this Policy will generally be no more than four times a year, or at the Council's discretion.

Nature strip maintenance under this policy will not necessarily reflect the quality of maintenance on private properties. The Council will clean grass clippings from the footpath, driveway and gutter that results from works carried out in the maintenance of the nature strips.

No other rubbish, debris or green waste will be cleaned up and/or removed from the nature strip or private property at the time of mowing

Alternative Nature Strip Plantings and Treatments

A resident wishing to replace the grass verge with low maintenance plantings or garden areas must apply in writing to the Council, and received written approval prior to undertaking any works.

A set of Guidelines for landscaping and maintenance of nature strips and guidelines for food gardens on nature strips has been developed to assist property owners and residents in achieving alternatives to grass nature strips.

Any proposal must comply with the following conditions:

- Road owners consent is granted prior to any works commencing.
- Any changes to the nature strip does not alienate public land for a private purpose. Nature strips shall remain part of the road reserve and in public ownership;
- Public safety is paramount in all considerations and the works must not create an obstacle or obstruction to the adjoining property owners and/or public use of the nature strip, footpath or road, including pedestrians, cyclists, kerbside parking, rubbish collection and property access;
- Swale drains located within the nature strip are not modified and remain grassed;
- Council is not liable for any damage to underground services. A *Dial Before You Dig* must be undertaken by the resident prior to works commencing;
- Installation and maintenance of alternative plantings and treatments complies with City of Hobart Guideline for Nature Strips;
- Removal of plantings may occur at any time due to emergency or planned works. The City will endeavour to provide notice, however this may not always be possible. The City will endeavour to transplant the plants for reuse where possible. If not the city will supply up to 20 tube stock plants from its nursery that are suitable for planting on nature strips.

Landscaping

- Plantings (excluding street trees) are maintained at a maximum height of 60cm;
- Plantings do not include Weeds of National Significance, declared weeds under the *Weed Management Act 1999* or environmental weeds within the Hobart municipality;
- Residents are not permitted to plant, prune, damage or remove street trees in accordance with the City of Hobart's Street Tree Strategy 2017. Damage includes branches, trunk and roots of the tree. Residents can, however, make a customer service request for a new, replacement or maintenance of a street tree through the Council's Customer Service Centre;
- The Council can require the resident to remove any nature strip treatments that are considered a risk to users of the nature strip, footpath or road, prevents access or

impacts of site distances for pedestrians, cyclists or motorists and if the resident does not or cannot maintain the nature strip;

- The Council will not contribute financially to the installation, maintenance or damage caused to an alternative nature strip. The resident is responsible for all costs of ongoing maintenance and the reinstatement back to grass verge if requested or required by the Council; and
- Retrospective approval for nature strips modified prior to endorsing this policy is not required unless deemed unsafe by the Council or there is a failure to maintain the alternative plantings and surfacing in accordance with the City of Hobart's Guideline for Nature Strips.

Food Gardens

- The chosen site should have no major safety, health or traffic concerns. An established food garden should not create hazards or barriers for pedestrians or other road users in the vicinity of the site. The site must not be near high volume traffic areas and traffic conditions will be assessed as suitable.
- The slope of a nature strip must not exceed a gradient of 15 ° (25%) to allow for optimum plant height and sight line safety. There must be no drop-offs or retaining walls in proximity to the installation.
- The site must enable access to all utilities and other essential services, including but not limited to: telecommunication pits, manholes, stormwater pipes, water meters, and electricity poles and lines. The site must also not intrude on aboveground fixtures such as street lighting.
- Nature strip food gardens are only permitted in raised planter boxes approved by the City of Hobart
- Installation and maintenance of alternative plantings and treatments complies with City of Hobart Guideline for Nature Strips Food Gardens.

4. Legislation, Terminology and References

RELATED LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1993

Local Government (Highways) Act 1982

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

Roads and Jetties act

Weed Management Act 1999

REFERENCES

Australian Standard 4373-2007: Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees.

Australian Standard 4970-2009: Protection of Trees on Development Sites.

**DEFINITIONS**

Nature Strip: means the unmade area between the edge of the road and adjacent land, but does not include a bicycle path, footpath or shared path.

Tree: Long lived woody perennial plant generally with one or relatively few main stems or trunks.

Responsible Officer:

Policy first adopted by the Council:

History

Amended by Council

Not applicable

Next Review Date:

File Reference:

7. COMMITTEE ACTION STATUS REPORT

7.1 Committee Actions - Status Report

A report indicating the status of current decisions is attached for the information of Elected Members.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received and noted.

Delegation: Committee

Attachment A: PRC Status Report OPEN April 2022

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE - STATUS REPORT

OPEN PORTION OF THE MEETING

November 2014 to April 2022

Ref.	Detail	Report / Action	Action Officer	Comments
1	KUNANYI/MOUNT WELLINGTON - ORGAN PIPES Open Council 19/12/2018, Item 12 Open Council 19/3/2019, Item	<p>The below report was deferred at the Council meeting on 19 March 2019 to allow an opportunity to discuss with the State Government its level of support for the proposed listing of the eastern face of kunanyi / Mount Wellington onto the National Heritage Register.</p> <p><i>That a report be prepared to consider the merits or otherwise;</i></p> <p>(i) <i>Of seeking national heritage listing for the Organ Pipes of kunanyi/Mount Wellington and/or</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>An extension of the South West World Heritage area to include the Wellington Park; and</i></p> <p>(iii) <i>The report to also investigate and ascertain who is the correct party to formally make the nomination to seek a national heritage listing or inclusion in the South West World Heritage area.</i></p>	Director City Life	<p>The Council decision is being actioned with advice sought from the Minister to confirm the State government position on a nomination.</p>

2	<p>BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER BROOKER AVENUE - PROPOSED NAME 'ROSE GARDEN BRIDGE'</p> <p>Open Council 18/3/2019, Item 18</p> <p>Open Council 19/8/2019, Item 16</p>	<p>That 'Rose Garden Bridge' be submitted as the Council's recommended name for the new bicycle and pedestrian bridge across Brooker Avenue, located between Bathurst Street and the University Rose Gardens on the Queens Domain, to the Nomenclature Board of Tasmania, pursuant to the Survey Co-ordination Act 1944 (Tasmania).</p> <p>The City explore ways to commemorate persons and groups of significance with strong connections to the development of the University Rose Gardens, including Kitty Henry and TT Flynn.</p>	Director City Life	<p>The Nomenclature Board has accepted the name for the Bridge.</p> <p>The City is in discussions with UTas to integrate the University Gardens with the Rose Gardens and explore the significant people connected with the gardens in order to prepare a naming protocol for the rose beds.</p> <p>This is the subject of the plans for the movement of UTAS to the City and the architects are preparing a draft plan for the required works.</p>
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3	<p>REGATTA GROUNDS BUILDINGS - REQUEST FOR LEASE</p> <p>Open Council 17/12/2020, Item 21</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A lease to the Royal Hobart Regatta Association over two buildings located on the Domain Regatta Ground foreshore (as indicated in paragraph 4.3 of the report marked as item 6.2 of the Open Parks and Recreation Committee agenda of 10 December 2020) for a period of ten (10) years, be approved, subject to no objections being received during the statutory community engagement process required under Sections 178 and 179 of the Local Government Act 1993. (i) Should any objections be received during the community engagement period, a further report will be provided to the Council. 2. The leased area be provided at a nominal annual rent (\$50 per annum) 3. The General Manager be authorised to finalise the terms and conditions of the lease. 4. In accordance with the Council Policy 'Grants and Benefits Disclosure' the benefit recognised to the Royal Hobart Regatta Association by way of reduced rental as part of the new lease be disclosed in the City's Annual Report. 5. The lease include a clause that allows the City to re-negotiate the terms and conditions of the lease between the City and the Royal Hobart Regatta Association in relation to the two buildings located on the Domain Regatta Ground foreshore in the event that any development should proceed in that vicinity of the foreshore. 	<p>Director City Life</p>	<p>Preparation of the lease is progressing but is now subject to review with the announcement by the State Government of a new covered stadium for the site to be built by 2027.</p>
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4	<p>410 ELIZABETH STREET, NORTH HOBART – NAMING OF SWAN STREET PARK</p> <p>Open CPC 15/3/2021, Item 7.2.6</p>	<p>That in consultation with the property owner, consideration be given to naming the park (currently known as Swan Street Park).</p>	<p>Director City Life</p>	<p>The City is in discussions with the adjoining Church that owns the land but no decision has been made. Future ownership options for the site is being reconsidered.</p>
5	<p>PETITION - STREET TREE PLANTINGS RUPERT AVENUE, MOUNT STUART</p> <p>Open Council 10/5/2021, Item 6</p> <p>Open Council 21/6/2021, Item 19</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The City undertake detailed investigations and design work for the potential installation of new street trees within Rupert Avenue, Mount Stuart, involving the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Local area consultation and engagement; (ii) Determination of potential locations and number of tree plantings, including suitable species selection; (iii) Traffic safety audit and traffic impact assessments; (iv) Impact of on-street parking availability; (v) Cost assessment for the installation of the trees within the road reservation to ensure appropriate tree root treatment and backfilling with structural soil to ensure surface surrounds remain trafficable; and (vi) Prioritisation of any installation to consider: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The timing of any potential road works scheduled for the Street. (b) Available funding (that is to be accommodated within the City's existing budget provision for its wider street tree planting program). 2. Elected Members be kept informed of the matter via advice memorandums. 3. The petitioners be advised of the Council's decision. 	<p>Director City Life</p>	<p>The Council decision is being actioned with draft plans prepared and undergoing assessment.</p>

6	<p>SANDY BAY ROWING CLUB, MARIEVILLE ESPLANADE - REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF LEASE FOOTPRINT</p> <p>Open Council 23/8/2021, Item 17</p> <p>Open Council 22/11/2021, Item 15</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An extension of the lease footprint to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club over a section of land outside of its premises at Marieville Esplanade, Battery Point (marked as Attachment A to item 6.1 of the Open Parks and Recreation Committee agenda of 12 August 2021), be approved. 2. A letter be sent to the objector of the lease during the community engagement period to advise of Council's decision and to provide advice on appeal rights. 3. The extended lease footprint area be added to the existing lease which, if all lease options are pursued, expires in 2030 under the same terms and conditions as the current lease. 4. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to finalise the terms and conditions of the lease, including a clause relating to the possible implications due to climate change and ensuring the area isn't used as a car park for the Club outside of its operating times. 5. In accordance with the Council Policy 'Grants and Benefits Disclosure' the benefit recognised to the Sandy Bay Rowing Club by way of reduced rental as part of the amended lease be disclosed in the City's Annual Report. 6. The Club submit a landscaping plan, including furniture design, to the satisfaction of the Director City Amenity, prior to any on-ground improvements being undertaken by the Club. 	Director City Life	The draft lease has been prepared
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7	<p>CLARE STREET OVAL, NEW TOWN - CHANGE ROOM AND TOILET IMPROVEMENTS</p> <p>Open Council 23/8/2021, Item 18</p>	<p>That:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council endorse the proposal to significantly upgrade and enhance the public toilet and changeroom facilities at Clare Street Oval, New Town, as detailed in the report of 6 August 2021 marked as item 6.2 of the Open Parks and Recreation Committee agenda of 12 August 2021. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The Council note the City's current asset replacement budget allocation of \$900,000, together with State Government's 'Levelling the Playing Field' grant funding of \$450,000 for the improvement works. 2. The CEO be delegated authority to secure all statutory permits for the development to proceed. 	Director City Life	A contractor has been appointed for this project, a start date is pending.
8	<p>REVIEW OF COUNCIL TREE COMPENSATION POLICY</p> <p>Open Council 6 December 2021 Notice of Motion</p>	<p>That Council review its tree removal compensation policy, to ensure that it balances the need to maintain significant tree coverage with the need for additional housing development, and to ensure it remains consistent with community expectation.</p>	Director City Life	Officers are progressing this matter and a report is scheduled for July 2022.

8. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Regulation 29(3) *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
File Ref: 13-1-10

The Chief Executive Officer reports:-

"In accordance with the procedures approved in respect to Questions Without Notice, the following responses to questions taken on notice are provided to the Committee for information.

The Committee is reminded that in accordance with Regulation 29(3) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*, the Chairman is not to allow discussion or debate on either the question or the response."

8.1 Protection of Council / Public Land
File Ref: F22/39437

Memorandum of the Director City Life of 4 May 2022.

8.2 New Town Sports Precinct Funding
File Ref: F22/39438

Memorandum of the Director City Life of 5 May 2022.

That the information be received and noted.

Delegation: Committee



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ELECTED MEMBERS**

PROTECTION OF COUNCIL / PUBLIC LAND

Meeting: Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting date: 13 April 2022

Raised by: Lord Mayor Reynolds

Question:

In August 2018, the Parks Committee made the following recommendation to Council,

“That in respect to any proposed cable car development that may be established in Wellington Park and noting the provisions of the Mount Wellington (Cable Car Facilitation) Act 2017, any public and operational land owned by the City, located on the foothills of kunanyi / Mount Wellington and outside Wellington Park not be made available for the construction of an access road or any other infrastructure to support a cable car development.”

What legal status or binding policy status does this Council decision have on the protection of Council / public land?

Is this Council decision binding on this current Council or on future Councils?

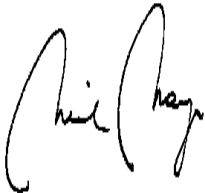
Response:

The above decision is the current position of the Council with respect to the public and operational land owned by the City, located on the foothills of kunanyi / Mount Wellington and outside Wellington Park associated with the proposed cable car development. It does not extend to any public land not associated with the proposed cable car development.

The decision is binding until such time as Council reconsiders its position and makes a decision to the contrary.

It is open to Council to reconsider its position in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*. As the decision was made at a meeting prior the last ordinary election, a simple majority of Council is required to overturn the decision.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Neil Noye
DIRECTOR CITY LIFE

Date: 4 May 2022
File Reference: F22/39437



City of **HOBART**

**MEMORANDUM: LORD MAYOR
DEPUTY LORD MAYOR
ELECTED MEMBERS**

NEW TOWN SPORTS PRECINCT FUNDING

Meeting: Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting date: 13 April 2022

Raised by: Alderman Briscoe

Question:

In reference to the New Town Sports Precinct and its master plan, the State Government made a commitment to fund in May 2021, some works including more detailed plans to lobby the Federal Government for further funds for the \$20 million project.

My understanding is that that \$1million was paid to Council in August 2021 instead of the clubs.

My understanding is that these funds have not been spent and hence no detailed plans can be submitted for further funding and the resurfacing of the netball courts have not been done.

Can the Director provide an update on where the funds are and how it's proposed to be spent?

Response:

Leading up to the May 2021 Tasmanian Government election, the State Government provided a \$1 million commitment to facility improvements and planning for the New Town Sports Precinct.

No funds have yet been transferred to the Council as the Grant Deed was not supplied to the Council until 22 March 2022. The Deed was provided to the City as a specific condition of the funding arrangement by the Minister. The Deed was signed on 12 April 2022 and an invoice issued to facilitate the first payment to the Council.

A development application is pending a RFI's which need to be completed by the Southern Tasmanian Netball Association as the applicant before it can be considered by the Council.

Detailed designs for the proposed conversion of the bowling green to two netball courts is pending the planning permit and is required before any works can be contracted.

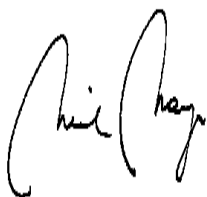
The Grant Deed requires the funding to be expended on facility improvements and precinct planning, including:

- The conversion of a bowling green to two additional floodlit netball courts including fencing;
- Synthetic grass surrounds and sun protection on existing bowling greens; and
- Detailed precinct planning based on the New Town Sports Precinct Master Plan.

As soon as the Deed was officially provided, the Council officers responded quickly to commence the project, convening a meeting with all stakeholders on 24 March 2022 and engaging a consultant to commence initial design concepts (25 March 2022). A subsequent meeting of key stakeholders was held on 3rd May to consider the initial design concepts and to discuss the next steps to deliver on the Grant Deed.

Officers will continue to work with all stakeholders of the facility to ensure all groups have an opportunity to provide input into how the precinct is developed for the benefit of all users and the wider community.

As signatory to this report, I certify that, pursuant to Section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993, I hold no interest, as referred to in Section 49 of the Local Government Act 1993, in matters contained in this report.



Neil Noye
DIRECTOR CITY LIFE

Date: 5 May 2022
File Reference: F22/39438

9. QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Section 29 of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015*.
File Ref: 13-1-10

An Elected Member may ask a question without notice of the Chairman, another Elected Member, the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer's representative, in line with the following procedures:

1. The Chairman will refuse to accept a question without notice if it does not relate to the Terms of Reference of the Council committee at which it is asked.
2. In putting a question without notice, an Elected Member must not:
 - (i) offer an argument or opinion; or
 - (ii) draw any inferences or make any imputations – except so far as may be necessary to explain the question.
3. The Chairman must not permit any debate of a question without notice or its answer.
4. The Chairman, Elected Members, Chief Executive Officer or Chief Executive Officer's representative who is asked a question may decline to answer the question, if in the opinion of the respondent it is considered inappropriate due to its being unclear, insulting or improper.
5. The Chairman may require a question to be put in writing.
6. Where a question without notice is asked and answered at a meeting, both the question and the response will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
7. Where a response is not able to be provided at the meeting, the question will be taken on notice and
 - (i) the minutes of the meeting at which the question is asked will record the question and the fact that it has been taken on notice.
 - (ii) a written response will be provided to all Elected Members, at the appropriate time.
 - (iii) upon the answer to the question being circulated to Elected Members, both the question and the answer will be listed on the agenda for the next available ordinary meeting of the committee at which it was asked, where it will be listed for noting purposes only.

10. CLOSED PORTION OF THE MEETING

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee resolve by majority that the meeting be closed to the public pursuant to regulation 15(1) of the *Local Government (Meeting Procedures) Regulations 2015* because the items included on the closed agenda contain the following matters:

- Minutes of a Closed Committee meeting
- Closed Questions Without Notice

The following items are listed for discussion:-

Item No. 1	Minutes of the last meeting of the Closed Portion of the Committee Meeting
Item No. 2	Consideration of supplementary items to the agenda
Item No. 3	Indications of pecuniary and conflicts of interest
Item No. 4	Committee Action Status Report
Item No. 4.1	Committee Actions - Status Report LG(MP)R 15(2)(c)(i)
Item No. 5	Questions Without Notice