

No.	Name	Summary of submission	Discussion/ Comments
1	M Hassett Secretary Metro East Bicycle User Group Inc (MeBug)	<p>Requests that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advocate to the state government and the LXRA to grade separate the Hawthorn to Box Hill shared path crossing of Mont Albert Road; • advocate for construction of cycle and pedestrian bridges across Elgar Road and across the rail line to connect Nelson Road and Thurston Street; and • substantially increase its own funding of cycle infrastructure to redress the neglect of recent years and respond to demands of the future. 	<p>Box Hill to Hawthorn Trail – Underpasses and Overpass: Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Level Crossing Removals Council officers met with M Hassett in early May 2021 to discuss the proposed shared user path (SUP) as part of the Mont Albert and Surrey Hills Level Crossing Removals Project. It was explained to Mr Hassett that although Council has been advocating for a grade separation for the SUP at Mont Albert Rd, Council has been advised by the LXP that this is not possible due to the tight constraints within the rail corridor and Lorne Parade. It was explained to Mr Hassett that the only way this could be achieved was for the LXP to compulsorily acquire private properties on Mont Albert Road. This is not something that Council would support, particularly when the business in question has been operating from this site for over 30 years. Due to the complexity and constraints Council understands that this separation is not achievable by the LXP. No further action required.</p> <p>Elgar Road Council Officers are working with the Department of Transport for the early planning of the Box Hill to Hawthorn Strategic Cycling Corridor, which will include a crossing of Elgar Road. This project is still in its early stages and a full assessment will need to be completed for any proposal.</p> <p>Nelson-Thurston Shared Path Bridge Council is also advocating strongly to the State and Federal Governments for a north-south walking and cycling connection over the train line, to connect Nelson Road and Thurston Street.</p> <p>Funding of cycling infrastructure Council has an annual budget program with regards to funding allocation for expenditure on existing and renewal of bicycle infrastructure projects. The budget is reviewed annually and appropriate funding is allocated to deliver these programs. By way of example, funding for bicycle infrastructure for 2021/22 is primarily through the Implementation of the Easy Ride Routes which is allocated \$462k. There is some minor funding for design of bicycle projects as part of the Box Hill Integrated Transport Strategy in 2021/22.</p>
2	M Hallett, CEO Nunawading Basketball	Supports the 2021/2022 budget allocation for the East Burwood Reserve Master Plan.	<p>Noted. Council endorsed the Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study and its recommendations at the ordinary Council Meeting on Monday 24th August, 2020. This project is underpinned by recommendation 6 from the Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study which calls to Undertake a Master Plan for East Burwood Reserve.</p> <p>Please note the budget allocation in the budget document is \$0.08 million (or \$75,000) for 21/22, not \$0.80 million as outlined by the submitter.</p>

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3	R Hansen, Friends of Mont Albert Reserve	Requests the public toilet facility attached to the Mont Albert Reserve pavilion be opened daily for park users.	The toilets at Mont Albert Reserve are not opened daily due to cost considerations. There is a limited budget for servicing public toilets. To provide this service it would cost \$5,000 per year for servicing and maintenance costs. The toilets in Mont Albert Reserve are typical of many across Whitehorse and if the regular opening of this type of toilet were to be considered necessary, a priority assessment would need to be completed and subsequent budget allocation made.
4	M Elliott	Requests an extension of access to facilities at parks and open spaces such as out of hours access to toilets and on demand lighting at Mont Albert Reserve.	<p>From Friday 7 May, on demand lighting at Mont Albert Reserve is available for the broader community to utilise. The lights can be activated by a push button on the pavilion and will operate for a 30 minute cycle. The switch to operate the lights is located on the pavilion near the ramp and a flashing warning light activates 5 minutes before the lights switch off. These lights are available for use on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evenings between 6.30pm – 8.30pm and will be in action until the end of September.</p> <p>Public toilets in parks and open spaces throughout Whitehorse are opened prior to 9.00am each morning and closed after 5.00pm each evening. Leaving public toilets open after these hours can generate an unacceptable level of vandalism, unsociable or illegal activities and presents a safety risk for cleaners who have to attend to these sites.</p> <p>The toilets at Mont Albert Reserve are not opened daily due to cost considerations. There is a limited budget for servicing public toilets. To provide this service it would cost \$5,000 per year for servicing and maintenance costs. The toilets in Mont Albert Reserve are typical of many across Whitehorse and if the regular opening of this type of toilet were to be considered necessary, a priority assessment would need to be completed and subsequent budget allocation made.</p>

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5	S Lodge	<p>Requests additional funding for active transport, particularly safe paths, including the following trails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wurundjeri Trail • Syndal to Heatherdale Pipeline Trail • Healesville Freeway Trail • Box Hill to Anniversary Trail (along train line), and • Improved capacity for travel to and through the Box Hill CBD. 	<p>Wurundjeri Walk, Blackburn South This is a local reserve with established granitic sand paths. There are no plans to upgrade the paths in this reserve.</p> <p>Syndal to Heatherdale Pipeline Trail This project has Council funding allocated to construct a shared user path along it from Rooks Road, Mitcham to Hawthorn Road, Forest Hill. The project was put on hold in 2018 due to the land owner, Melbourne Water, informing Council that the water pipes in this reserve were due to be upgraded. Melbourne Water are undertaking planning and design work for this upgrade. Council Officers will continue to work with Melbourne Water to construct the shared user path after the completion of the water pipe upgrade.</p> <p>Healesville Freeway Trail Establishment of the Healesville Freeway Reserve is being coordinated by the Victorian Government agency Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</p> <p>Box Hill to Hawthorn Strategic Cycling Corridor Council Officers are working with the Department of Transport for the early planning of the Box Hill to Hawthorn Strategic Cycling Corridor, which includes an east-west crossing of Box Hill to connect to the existing Box Hill to Ringwood Shared User Path. This project will link in with the Level Crossing Removal Project at Mont Albert and Surrey Hills. Council is also advocating strongly to the State and Federal Governments for a north-south walking and cycling connection over the train line, to connect Nelson Road and Thurston Street.</p>

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6	A Pepper	<p>Concerned about the level of spending by Council on football/cricket clubs in recent years, such as the \$6.2 million on Heatherdale Reserve, and that this is to the detriment of other sports within Whitehorse such as gymnastics, athletics, tennis and soccer clubs.</p>	<p>Council is committed to coordinating and providing services, renewing and building infrastructure and creating amenity within the recreation, leisure and open space remit.</p> <p>Our investment priorities are underpinned and informed by the priorities set out in our policies, plans and strategies which have all been adopted by Council.</p> <p>These plans and strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space Strategy • Play Space Strategy • Recreation Strategy • Indoor Sports Facility Feasibility Study • Pavilion Development Policy • Master Plans <p>These plans and strategies feed into our Asset Management Plan and 10 Year Capital Works and map out our investment. They are informed by condition ratings, demand and risk.</p> <p>The proposed 2021/22 Council budget features significant investment across a diverse range of recreation (passive and active) disciplines and open space projects. These projects include:</p> <p>\$3.33 million for parks and open space, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.95 million playground renewal and upgrade program • \$0.54 million park furniture renewal program • \$0.39 million to upgrade dog exercise/walking infrastructure • \$0.28 million for the implementation of a new off-leash dog park at Simpson Park • \$0.17 million for lighting at the Box Hill Gardens basketball court <p>\$9.87 million for recreational, leisure and community facilities, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.26 million Sportsfield Ground Renewals including improvements to surfaces, infrastructure, • training nets and cricket wickets • \$0.78 million to upgrade sports field lighting at Elgar Park South • \$0.45 million to upgrade sports field lighting at Bennettswood Reserve South • \$0.23 million for Eley Park Sports Court

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7	M Livy	Requesting information about the timeframe for sealing the unsealed car parks in Spark's Reserve North and West?	<p>The unsealed car park at Sparks (North) is proposed to be undertaken in the 2021/2022 financial year. The exact timing of the works is subject to further planning approval from Melbourne Water.</p> <p>Provision for sealed car parking along a reconfigured entry driveway is part of the Sparks (West) Pavilion development works.</p> <p>Further stages of sealing the northern and upper western portion of Sparks (West) will be assessed based on need and usage after the new pavilion is completed.</p> <p>Council is scheduled to commence the Sparks West Reserve Pavilion in September 2021 and be completed by June 2022.</p>
8	L Thomas	Requests that the budget include more detailed information about the \$171 million for delivery of services.	<p>The Proposed Budget document is a high level strategic document. It provides readers with information about Council's operational and capital works budgets for the next four years, with a focus on the details for the next year ahead. For operational expenditure, this is provided at a summarised service level and is linked to the relevant strategic objective in the Council Plan. Council's presentation of the operational budget is consistent with the Model Budget Better Practice Guide that is issued for the local government sector. It is considered that this is the most appropriate level of disclosure to meet the needs of the majority of the readers of the Proposed Budget document, enabling them to gain an understanding of the services undertaken by Council and the respective budget allocations for each of those services.</p>
9	E Tyson	Requests that Council provide a discounted fee for low income healthcare cardholders as well as pensioners for animal registrations.	<p>In setting domestic animal registration fees, Whitehorse applies the framework established under the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (Act). The Act provides the criteria for the provision of reduced registration fees including eligible pensioners, owners of certain types of animals and part year registrations. However, holders of Healthcare Cards are not eligible for a reduced rate and must pay the full fee.</p> <p>Fee relief is provided if the animal has been desexed, obedience trained, over the age 10 years or the applicant is a member of an approved organisation. For more information visit the Whitehorse Council web page.</p>

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10	P Daw, Heatherdale Community Action Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the allocation for artwork acquisitions included in the Proposed Budget. 2. Recommends the acquisition of a piece of artwork from Craig Lidgerwood and Annemieke Mein. 3. Requests the relocation of Council's art work to a more appropriate location allowing display accessible to the general public. 	<p>1 Noted.</p> <p>2. Council has a Visual Arts Advisory Committee (VAAC) of community based industry professionals who assess any potential artwork acquisition based on Art Collection themes. The VAAC were advised at its most recent meeting that Annemieke Mein no longer creates textiles. The Artspace Curator will keep informed of sales of older works for VAAC consideration. Artspace plans to exhibit her work in late 2022. Craig Lidgerwood's work may also be considered for future purchase by the VAAC.</p> <p>3. Whitehorse Artspace is a museum standard space, for the display of the Whitehorse Art Collection, and is similar, if not larger, to other galleries in the east and meets the needs of the Collection exhibition program. It is climate and humidity controlled, accessible to the public and is secure (with cameras and an alarm system). Artwork is also displayed in Council venues citywide – such as libraries, Nunawading Civic Centre foyer, Box Hill Community Arts Centre, Mountain View Cottage, Nunawading Community Hub and the aquatic centres. Artwork will also be reinstated to the Whitehorse Performing Art Centre upon building completion. Council also has public art on display in in our parks and open spaces.</p>
11	P Daw, Heatherdale Community Action Group	<p>HCAG advocates that Council should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopen its assessment of Yarran Dheran's project scope to ensure that and commit to a process of (as a minimum) deliberative engagement with the community embracing ALL of the considerations below. • That the timing commitment for this project should not, once again, be deferred. • Recognise the importance and significance of Yarran Dheran in the wider scheme of things including its biodiversity and linkages to the wider area, including beyond Whitehorse. • Recognise the importance and significance of the reserve – it is not a local park. It has Whitehorse wide importance and is regionally 	<p>The designs for Yarran Dheran Visitor Centre have been developed in conjunction with all users of the centre and were signed off by the working group in 2017. As recently as 3 February 2021 the project team held a 2 and half hour workshop with the stakeholders where information was provided on a range of requests for additional scope items, some of which have been included and some which have not. There has been a high level of consultation on these proposed works.</p> <p>The visitor centre has been maintained as required by Council on an ongoing basis. New DDA requirements that will be triggered by the proposed works are required by law to be addressed. They are not an add-on item or independent of the project scope.</p> <p>Council continues to advocate for external funding for this and many other projects within Whitehorse and would welcome any external funding contributions towards this project.</p> <p>The allocated Capital budget in 2022/23 reflects the estimated cost to upgrade the Yarran Dheran Visitor Centre to the agreed plans.</p>

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11	P Daw, Heatherdale Community Action Group (cont.)	<p>important. Council should base its scope of work on these wider needs and importance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit its budget commitment regarding Yarran Dheran, with a view to increasing its budget commitment. • Funding of DDA compliance issues should be treated separately to the redevelopment of the visitor centre. • Encourage and accept any and all funding from other sources including other levels of Government. • Ensure that all characteristics and features of the area are conveyed with recommendations so that Elected Councillors can make informed decisions. 	
12	D Dressing, President Vermont South Club Inc	<p>Requests that Council brings forward the Vermont South Club extension into the 2021/22 financial year. The planned 2022/23 construction puts committed federal funding of \$300,000 at risk and delays the club's planned growth.</p> <p>Also requests that Council recognise the contribution by the club of \$150,000 towards the project.</p>	<p>In providing a financially sustainable ten year Capital Program, Council must consider all of the competing priorities for community projects. In assessing these priorities Council has forecast the allocation of funds in the 2022/23 year for the project.</p> <p>The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development who manage the Community Development Grants programme have advised Council officers that, following a recent review of the programme commitments, they are seeking advice from the club regarding the project status. A commitment is required in the short term to enter into a funding agreement. Council officers will assist the club in meeting the Department's requirements to secure the funding.</p> <p>Planning permission will be sought in 2021/22 relating to car park provision and open space impacts associated with the building extension.</p>

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13	E Blake	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objection to proposal to install fence for off leash dog park at Simpson Park. There is already an off-leash park. A fence will be visually unappealing and money better spent creating a new off leash park elsewhere. 2. Request for traffic treatments, improved signage and installation of a pedestrian crossing on Enterprise Way near Aroma Café in Britannia Mall. 	<p>Simpson Park Dog Park Council was successful in its funding application to the Victorian Government, through the Local Parks Program and has received \$275,000 to construct an off-leash enclosed dog park in Simpson Park, Mitcham. Community engagement on this project was hosted in July 2020.</p> <p>A second stage of community engagement on the Simpson Park Proposed Off-Leash Enclosed Dog Park will be undertaken August. This engagement will be based on an updated concept plan that will respond to the broad themes that we heard as part of the 2020 community engagement.</p> <p>After the community consultation period closes the Councillor group will be provided a report. The report will share information on the 2020 consultation round and also provide an update on the community's response and feedback to the 2021 consultation package. The Councillor group will have an opportunity to consider this new feedback and determine whether the project proceeds. If the Councillor Group resolves that the project is not supported then the funding (\$275,000) will be required to be returned to the Victorian Government.</p> <p>The project is captured in the budget to allow the park to be constructed in 2021/22 should the project be supported.</p> <p>Britannia Mall As part of the upgrade of Britannia Mall, the design has considered the interaction between vehicles and pedestrians. The design has responded through the specification of traffic calming devices, signage and associated streetscape works to improve safety for both pedestrians and vehicles. A dedicated pedestrian crossing is not included in the scope.</p>

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14	P Sayers	<p>Objection to the proposed fencing of the Simpson Park off-leash dog park which would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result in the loss of open space which currently exists for all park users. • Discriminate against the diversity of park users, favouring one use only within the fenced region. • Change the amenity of this natural piece of parkland forever, imposing man- made structures (particularly the fence) into a natural open environment which attracts park users who live in an urban built up area. • Diminish freedom of movement. 	<p>Council was successful in its funding application to the Victorian Government, through the Local Parks Program and has received \$275,000 to construct an off-leash enclosed dog park in Simpson Park, Mitcham. Community engagement on this project was hosted in July 2020.</p> <p>A second stage of community engagement on the Simpson Park Proposed Off-Leash Enclosed Dog Park will be undertaken August. This engagement will be based on an updated concept plan that will respond to the broad themes that we heard as part of the 2020 community engagement.</p> <p>After the community consultation period closes the Councillor group will be provided a report. The report will share information on the 2020 consultation round and also provide an update on the community's response and feedback to the 2021 consultation package. The Councillor group will have an opportunity to consider this new feedback and determine whether the project proceeds. If the Councillor Group resolves that the project is not supported then the funding (\$275,000) will be required to be returned to the Victorian Government.</p> <p>The project is captured in the budget to allow the park to be constructed in 2021/22 should the project be supported.</p>
15	J Frank	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objection to proposal to install fence for off leash dog park at Simpson Park. A fence will ruin the ambience and aesthetics of the parkland and has potential for aggressive or non-dog friendly dogs to use this space. 2. Request for Enterprise Way to be made a shared zone and installation of a set of one-way road spikes at the western end to prevent vehicles travelling the wrong way. 	<p>Simpson Park Dog Park</p> <p>Council was successful in its funding application to the Victorian Government, through the Local Parks Program and has received \$275,000 to construct an off-leash enclosed dog park in Simpson Park, Mitcham. Community engagement on this project was hosted in July 2020.</p> <p>A second stage of community engagement on the Simpson Park Proposed Off-Leash Enclosed Dog Park will be undertaken August. This engagement will be based on an updated concept plan that will respond to the broad themes that we heard as part of the 2020 community engagement.</p> <p>After the community consultation period closes the Councillor group will be provided a report. The report will share information on the 2020 consultation round and also provide an update on the community's response and feedback to the 2021 consultation package. The Councillor group will have an opportunity to consider this new feedback and determine whether the project proceeds. If the Councillor Group resolves that the project is not supported then the funding (\$275,000) will be required to be returned to the Victorian Government.</p> <p>The project is captured in the budget to allow the park to be constructed in 2021/22 should the project be supported.</p>

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15	J Frank (cont.)		<p>Britannia Mall</p> <p>As part of the upgrade of Britannia Mall, the design has considered the interaction between vehicles and pedestrians. The design has responded through the specification of traffic calming devices, signage and associated streetscape works to improve safety for both pedestrians and vehicles. Installation of one-way road spikes is not included in the scope.</p>
16	T Hogg	<p>Objection to proposal to install fence for off leash dog park at Simpson Park being included in Budget when evaluation of the project and due community consultation has not been completed.</p>	<p>Council was successful in its funding application to the Victorian Government, through the Local Parks Program and has received \$275,000 to construct an off-leash enclosed dog park in Simpson Park, Mitcham. Community engagement on this project was hosted in July 2020.</p> <p>A second stage of community engagement on the Simpson Park Proposed Off-Leash Enclosed Dog Park will be undertaken August. This engagement will be based on an updated concept plan that will respond to the broad themes that we heard as part of the 2020 community engagement.</p> <p>After the community consultation period closes the Councillor group will be provided a report. The report will share information on the 2020 consultation round and also provide an update on the community's response and feedback to the 2021 consultation package. The Councillor group will have an opportunity to consider this new feedback and determine whether the project proceeds. If the Councillor Group resolves that the project is not supported then the funding (\$275,000) will be required to be returned to the Victorian Government.</p> <p>The project is captured in the budget to allow the park to be constructed in 2021/22 should the project be supported.</p>

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17	V Turnbull	<p>Objection to proposal to install fence for off leash dog park at Simpson Park for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loss of valuable open grassland frequently used for different activities • will discriminate against some dog walkers • unnecessary as there is ample space for people and dogs both on or off lead • likely to attract owners with unsocialised dogs • the area is very boggy in winter months and could be messy • who will maintain it in good order, making sure owners pick up after their dogs and any litter is removed? • car parking in Garden Ave, adjacent to the proposed dog park, will be an issue with residents. Also parking in the limited area around the Simpson Park Facility. • Dog Club and Cricket Club are concerned about losing limited parking space at the Facility and dog walkers walking across the oval, while classes are running, to the proposed Dog Park at the opposite end of the oval. • the proposed area is used extensively with off leash dog walkers when the oval is in use for sport or other organised activities. 	<p>Council was successful in its funding application to the Victorian Government, through the Local Parks Program and has received \$275,000 to construct an off-leash enclosed dog park in Simpson Park, Mitcham. Community engagement on this project was hosted in July 2020.</p> <p>A second stage of community engagement on the Simpson Park Proposed Off-Leash Enclosed Dog Park will be undertaken August. This engagement will be based on an updated concept plan that will respond to the broad themes that we heard as part of the 2020 community engagement.</p> <p>After the community consultation period closes the Councillor group will be provided a report. The report will share information on the 2020 consultation round and also provide an update on the community's response and feedback to the 2021 consultation package. The Councillor group will have an opportunity to consider this new feedback and determine whether the project proceeds. If the Councillor Group resolves that the project is not supported then the funding (\$275,000) will be required to be returned to the Victorian Government.</p> <p>The project is captured in the budget to allow the park to be constructed in 2021/22 should the project be supported.</p>

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18	Name withheld	Objection to the inclusion of Simpson Park dog park in the budget as dog park proposal has not yet been endorsed by the community.	<p>Council was successful in its funding application to the Victorian Government, through the Local Parks Program and has received \$275,000 to construct an off-leash enclosed dog park in Simpson Park, Mitcham. Community engagement on this project was hosted in July 2020.</p> <p>A second stage of community engagement on the Simpson Park Proposed Off-Leash Enclosed Dog Park will be undertaken August. This engagement will be based on an updated concept plan that will respond to the broad themes that we heard as part of the 2020 community engagement.</p> <p>After the community consultation period closes the Councillor group will be provided a report. The report will share information on the 2020 consultation round and also provide an update on the community's response and feedback to the 2021 consultation package. The Councillor group will have an opportunity to consider this new feedback and determine whether the project proceeds. If the Councillor Group resolves that the project is not supported then the funding (\$275,000) will be required to be returned to the Victorian Government.</p> <p>The project is captured in the budget to allow the park to be constructed in 2021/22 should the project be supported.</p>
19	T Tescher, President, Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association	<p>Raises observations on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Whitehorse Centre redevelopment project should be re-examined to develop a more modest concept and funding redirected for other projects that will benefit the community small percentage of funding for road and pathway maintenance increasing salaries seems in contradiction to the recent independent organisational review aiming to improve efficiencies and given most activities of council are outsourced instead of proposed Waste Management Charge, Council should worked together with other councils to find a less costly and more 	<p>Whitehorse Centre Redevelopment The redevelopment of the performing arts, festival and function centre is in response to business case planning and multiple rounds of community consultation over a number of years to determine the service and scale requirements of this facility for the community on its completion and for future generations.</p> <p>Road and Footpath Maintenance The funding for road and pathway maintenance is based on the current asset management plan requirements. The plans take into consideration detailed condition assessments and modelling to ensure there is adequate funding for these assets.</p> <p>Salaries The practice of applying an annual adjustment to remuneration is standard in both the local government sector and the community. For most staff, this is applied through industrial agreements with the relevant unions. Council's current agreement runs from September 2019 to September 2021 and applies a 1.5% remuneration increase in September 2021, aligned to the 2021/2022 rate cap.</p>

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19	T Tescher, President, Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association (cont.)	<p>environmentally friendly solution for waste management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there should be more funding for street tree planting and the state government should help fund these, given trees being removed for state projects such as North East Link and railway crossing removals Council should consider use of open space reserve funds for improvements to parks and off leash dog parks, including fencing areas to prevent children running onto the road, such as at Boisdale Reserve Surrey Hills. Funding should be provided to keep toilet facilities in parks open and clean and provide more bins Concern funds spent on placemaking are not well-utilised Importance of providing suitable shade cover for playgrounds strongly support establishment of more off leash dog parks but budget allocation proposed for Simpson Park dog park is too high given impact of pandemic, the budget should make allowance for rates hardship waivers 	<p>The Finance and Corporate Performance budget on page 25 of the Proposed Budget 2020/2021 includes both salary and non-salary costs for this department and encompasses functions broader than traditional financial operations such as corporate planning and reporting and continuous improvement. It also includes the centralised fringe benefits tax expenditure for the whole organisation.</p> <p>The Proposed Budget 2021/2022 includes a larger increase in salaries than usual due to the planned delivery of some large transformation initiatives as part of Council's recently launched transformation program. The majority of these roles are short term roles for terms of between 2-5 years and will enable Council to achieve greater efficiencies in a shorter time period than would otherwise be achieved, particularly with the delivery of improved technology and systems, and a boost to the continuous improvement function.</p> <p>Waste Service Charge The proposed Waste Service Charge initiative is an action from Council's Waste Management strategy 2018-2028 which was developed following extensive community consultation. The charge is intended to separate out the charging of waste services from the general rates to be clearer and open with the community about the cost of waste. When the Waste Service Charge is implemented there will be no net increase in rates.</p> <p>Council currently works actively in collaborating with many other metro Councils in the eastern region and beyond in order to seek best practice, innovate and minimise costs of resource recovery and waste management. Council currently has collaborative contracts which offer economies of scale for disposal of waste to landfill and processing of garden organics (to be food and garden organics by 1 July 2022) and is working towards more where this offers benefits to our community. These include looking to secure alternative technologies to landfill and possibly new recycling sorting and processing within Victoria.</p> <p>Street Trees Councils existing capital street tree budget enables approximately 2,000 street trees to be planted per annum. Council is currently developing an Urban Forest Strategy that will seek to improve tree canopy throughout Whitehorse</p> <p>State Government funds the replanting of trees when they are removed as part of the Major Transport projects, including rail crossing removals.</p>

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19	T Tescher, President, Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association (cont.)		<p>The State Government will be developing a Tree Canopy Replacement Plan to determine the locations within Whitehorse where thousands of trees can be planted to replace those removed as part of the North East Link (NEL) project. Two trees will be planted for every tree that is removed.</p> <p>Use of Open Space Reserve The Open Space Reserve must be used for land acquisition or capital works projects and should be directed by the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy (Strategy) in accordance with the requirements of Section 20 of the Subdivision Act 1988.</p> <p>The Strategy guides the future planning, provision, design and management of public open space in the City of Whitehorse. This includes understanding and addressing the open space needs of the existing community and planning ahead to anticipate and meet the open space needs of the forecast population within the municipality.</p> <p>Funding to deliver the Strategy is provided through the Open Space Reserve. Under the Whitehorse Planning Scheme, there is a mandatory requirement for a Public Open Space contribution, which is determined at 4% of the land value. Subdivision of land on a strategic site (as defined by the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy, Council or State Government), may attract a higher open space contribution than 4%.</p> <p>Since adoption of the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy Whitehorse City Council has created five new open spaces with a sixth new open space soon to be created in Burwood. This will add over 11,561 square metres of new open space into the City of Whitehorse open space network. Collectively the purchase value of these sites is approximately \$11.5million.</p> <p>In 2021/22, Council plans to transfer \$5.25 million funds into the Public Open Space Reserve, reflecting anticipated contributions and interest earnings for the year, and transfer \$4.48 million from the reserve to partly fund land acquisitions and capital works projects related to the development or improvement of public open space sites.</p> <p>Provision of public toilets/bins in parks There are 35 conventional public toilet facilities throughout the municipality and 13 automated Exeloo public toilets. All of the 35 conventional toilets are cleaned and stocked with consumables once per day that they are open. There are periodical major cleans and extra cleans as required. The opening and closing times vary depending on the classification and the time of year, with the toilets being open for longer during daylight saving. The 13 Exeloo's have automated cleans as well as serviced cleans. There is a limited budget for servicing public toilets. There are some public toilets that are</p>

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19	T Tescher, President, Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association (cont.)		<p>open seven days per week and some only on weekends. It typically costs around \$5,000 per year to extend the opening of a toilet from the weekend to seven days per week.</p> <p>It is considered there is an adequate amount of public bins. The addition of new bins in some locations can create more litter with an increase in the inappropriate use of bins and dumped rubbish. During the COVID-19 restrictions there was a need to increase both the number of bins and the frequency of collection in response to the increase use of parks and open spaces. The current use of the bins is now back to pre COVID-19 restrictions, notwithstanding a short term spike due to the recent 'circuit breaker' lockdown.</p> <p>Placemaking Placemaking improvements and activations are focused in business activity centres to support local traders and to encourage communities to return to these activity hubs for the benefit of local business and a more connected and engaged community.</p> <p>Shade cover at Playgrounds The Whitehorse Play Space Strategy guides the development and management of Council's 175 play spaces throughout the municipality. The Strategy states that natural shade either from existing trees or through additional tree planting is the current preferred methodology for providing shade cover to Council's playgrounds.</p> <p>Off Leash Dog Parks There are 22 parks and reserves in the City of Whitehorse where you can exercise your dog off-lead and Exercising your dog should be in alignment with the City's dog of leash guidelines. There are no plans to fence or enclose Boisdale Street Reserve</p> <p>Council was successful in its funding application to the Victorian Government, through the Local Parks Program and has received \$275,000 to construct an off-leash enclosed dog park in Simpson Park, Mitcham. Community engagement on this project was hosted in July 2020.</p> <p>A second stage of community engagement on the Simpson Park Proposed Off-Leash Enclosed Dog Park will be undertaken August. This engagement will be based on an updated concept plan that will respond to the broad themes that we heard as part of the 2020 community engagement.</p> <p>After the community consultation period closes the Councillor group will be provided a report. The report will share information on the 2020 consultation round and also provide an update on the community's response and feedback to the 2021 consultation package. The Councillor group will have an opportunity to consider this new feedback and determine whether the project proceeds. If</p>

No.	Name	Summary of submission	Discussion/ Comments
19	T Tescher, President, Whitehorse Ratepayers and Residents Association (cont.)		<p>the Councillor Group resolves that the project is not supported then the funding (\$275,000) will be required to be returned to the Victorian Government. The project is captured in the budget to allow the park to be constructed in 2021/22 should the project be supported.</p> <p>Rates Hardship Council's Rates Hardship Assistance Policy (which was recently reviewed by the Victorian Ombudsman) and the waiver provisions contained within the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i> provides ratepayers with the opportunity make application for waiver or deferment. No allowance has been included in the Proposed Budget 2021/2022 for rates waivers however Council has allowed for the continued waivers of penalty interest in response to the ongoing impact of COVID-19.</p>
20	A Hucker	Supports the Heatherdale Pavilion upgrade.	<p>The pavilion located at Heatherdale Reserve 116-124 Heatherdale Road Mitcham, has served the community well however, it is now time for this pavilion to be redeveloped to meet community expectations and legislative requirements.</p> <p>The project has been successful in receiving \$2 million Commonwealth Government funding and \$200,000 Victorian Government funding towards construction of a new single storey pavilion.</p> <p>The project will modernise the reserve's ageing pavilion by delivering female friendly and fully accessible public amenities, sports club change room facilities, a raised covered viewing area and a multi-purpose room. The pavilion has been designed to focus activity towards the sporting fields and features sustainable building elements including rain water tanks and solar panels.</p> <p>The 2021/22 proposed budget allocates \$6.23 million towards this project</p>

No.	Name	Summary of submission	Discussion/ Comments
21	<p>P Marulli, President, Kerrimuir United Cricket Club</p> <p><i>On behalf of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Kerrimuir United Cricket Club</i> ○ <i>Whitehorse Colts Football Netball Club</i> <p><i>Whitehorse Pioneers Football Club</i></p>	<p>Requesting consideration of a proposed upgrade to Springfield Park for inclusion in the Budget at estimated cost to Council of \$25k for Concept and Detailed Design, with potential future expenditure of up to \$1m to complete the upgrade.</p>	<p>There is no funding in the 2021/2022 Council Budget to undertake project scoping, design and constructing for the Springfield Park – Additional Sporting Infrastructure Projects</p> <p>Council has not undertaken any community engagement on this project. When proposing to introduce significant changes to the use and arrangement of an open space it is important to provide an opportunity for the community to input into the vision.</p> <p>Officers consider that a landscape plan would be adequate to test the community thoughts on the Springfield Park – Additional Sporting Infrastructure Projects. Should Council be minded to fund this project officers recommend that the project scope be extended to also include preparing a landscape plan. \$20,000 should be allocated to prepare a landscape plan.</p> <p>Funding for scoping, design and construction of projects arising from the landscape plan would need to be sought as part of a future Council budget.</p>
22	B Barclay	<p>Request for more gender equal facilities as part of the Heatherdale Pavilion upgrade.</p>	<p>The pavilion located at Heatherdale Reserve 116-124 Heatherdale Road Mitcham, has served the community well however, it is now time for this pavilion to be redeveloped to meet community expectations and legislative requirements.</p> <p>The project has been successful in receiving \$2 million Commonwealth Government funding and \$200,000 Victorian Government funding towards construction of a new single storey pavilion.</p> <p>Planning for the pavilion including the internal room provision, dimensions and level of service have been informed our <i>Pavilion Development Policy</i>. This comprehensive policy sets out our commitment to ensuring that the projects we deliver are fit for purpose and meeting the needs of all stakeholders.</p> <p>The project will modernise the reserve's ageing pavilion by delivering female friendly and fully accessible sports club change room facilities and public amenities, a raised covered viewing area and a multi-purpose room. The pavilion has been designed to focus activity towards the sporting fields and features sustainable building elements including rain water tanks and solar panels.</p> <p>The 2021/22 proposed budget allocates \$6.23 million towards this project.</p>

No.	Name	Summary of submission	Discussion/ Comments
23	G Gallagher, Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee	Requests a review of the planned Yarran Dheran refurbishment and upgrade project and for sufficient funds to be provided to ensure all required works are completed.	<p>The designs for Yarran Dheran Visitor Centre have been developed in conjunction with all users of the centre and were signed off by the working group in 2017. As recently as 3 February 2021 the project team held a 2 and half hour workshop with the stakeholders where information was provided on a range of requests for additional scope items, some of which have been included and some which have not. There has been a high level of consultation on these proposed works.</p> <p>The allocated Capital budget in 2022/23 reflects the estimated cost to upgrade the Yarran Dheran Visitor Centre to the agreed plans.</p>
24	G Gallagher, Yarran Dheran Advisory Committee	Requests a wording change in the Open Space Maintenance service description to include recognition of Yarran Dheran.	<p>The feedback is noted and the service description will be updated in the final version of the Budget to be adopted in June to recognise the education program at Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve as well as Blackburn Lake Sanctuary.</p> <p>There is a budget allocation in 2022/23 for improvements to the Yarran Dheran Visitor Centre.</p>
25	D Berry Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society Inc	<p>Questions budget allocations for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Forest Strategy should be supported as a stand-alone initiative under Strategic Direction 3 in the budget and requires a generous ongoing budget commitment to achieve 27% canopy cover by 2031 The Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group. Also concerned that the terms of reference have not been finalised and community positions yet to be filled Whitehorse tree assistance fund Ecological Connectivity Study Tree Census Increased funding for street tree renewal 	<p>Urban Forest Strategy The <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i> is yet to be adopted by Council. Consideration for new budget initiatives and long term funding will be undertaken if/when Council adopts the strategy.</p> <p>Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group Community volunteer positions for the Whitehorse Environment and Sustainability Reference Group have been advertised on Seek.com and on Better Impact. Once positions are filled the group will be finalised.</p> <p>Whitehorse Tree Assistance Fund While not specifically detailed, a \$40,000 budget allocation for continuation of the tree assistance fund is included within the Planning service budget on page 25 of the Proposed Budget 2021/2022.</p> <p>Ecological Connectivity Study Corridor studies will form part of the action plans for the <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i>.</p> <p>Tree Census The street tree data harvest inventory is currently being undertaken and expected to be completed by August 2021.</p>

No.	Name	Summary of submission	Discussion/ Comments
25	D Berry Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society Inc (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased usage of open space reserve including to convert the Box Hill Bowling Club site and purchase the Box Hill Brickworks site for open space Significant Landscape Overlay No. 9. And Council needs to continue to lobby the government to convert to permanent status. Increased funding for ParksWide department Increased funding for passive parks 	<p>Street Tree Renewal Current street tree funding allows for planting of approximately 2,000 new trees per annum. This will be reviewed as part of the <i>Urban Forest Strategy</i> and once the data harvest project is completed. Council has maintained the \$300k annual allocation for street tree planting in the Proposed Budget 2021/2022. This item is listed on page 83 – project <i>2014-59 Renewal Program Street Tree Planting</i>.</p> <p>Use of Open Space Reserve Providing new open space in established areas is expensive and rarely straightforward; and in each precinct area there is a unique urban environment with distinct challenges.</p> <p>Since adoption of the Whitehorse Open Space Strategy Whitehorse City Council has created five new open spaces with a sixth new open space soon to be created in Burwood. This will add over 11,561 square metres of new open space into the City of Whitehorse open space network. Collectively the purchase value of these sites is approximately \$11.5 million</p> <p>The 2021/22 proposed budget allocates \$150,000 to commence preparation of a new Open Space Strategy to guide the planning design and management of open space for the next 15 years. The Open Space Strategy will guide the future provision, planning, design and management of publicly owned land that is set aside for open space, recreation and nature conservation purposes.</p> <p>The new open space strategy is expected to outline a plan for creating new open space where it is needed for the existing and future population and ensure our city is best positioned to adapt to climate change.</p> <p>Kingsley Gardens services the open space needs of the area surrounding the Whitehorse Road and Elgar Road intersection, converting the former Box Hill Bowling Club site to open space is not supported.</p> <p>The former Box Hill Brickworks site is a former landfill site that is heavily contaminated and the site will remain contaminated in perpetuity. Purchasing heavily contaminated land with extensive land monitoring obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 2017 is not a financially prudent use of ratepayer funds.</p>

No.	Name	Summary of submission	Discussion/ Comments
25	D Berry Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society Inc (cont.)		<p>Significant Landscape Overlay No. 9 The Council Report on 18 July 2016 (and subsequent Council reports on 16 September 2019 and 16 March 2020) noted that additional staff will be required to assess any additional applications that may arise after the introduction of SLO9. This was intended to include up to 3 arborists, up to 2 enforcement officers and 1 administrative officer, which (as reported at the time) would cost approximately \$499,000 pa (plus on-costs such as superannuation) for salaries. These costs were adopted as part of the 2017/18 budget process, and while not specifically mentioned these costs are included on an ongoing basis in Council's operational budget, and sits within the Planning service on page 25 of the Proposed Budget 2021/2022. Council has used some of this budget to employ additional enforcement and administrative staff and contract arborist support. Appointment of staff to all of the anticipated roles would be made should the SLO9 become permanent.</p> <p>Council also has a funded Tree Education Officer and program which seeks to raise awareness of the benefits of trees in an urban environment, such as Whitehorse. The program includes a series of events to inform residents about the benefits of trees. The extension of this program was a key recommendation in the Municipal Wide Tree Study Options and Recommendations Report that was adopted by Council in 2016.</p> <p>Funding for ParksWide Department and Passive Parks Funding for the former ParksWide department, now Parks and Natural Environment department, is determined by the service levels for managing, maintaining and improving Council's open spaces. The allocation of funding for particular services is continuously reviewed to ensure that Council is able to meet statutory obligations and community expectations. The current levels of operational funding for parks and open space services are considered adequate to undertake these functions.</p> <p>The capital renewal budget for passive parks is determined in line with Council's asset management plan.</p>

No.	Name	Summary of submission	Discussion/ Comments
26	A Schwarz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to see introduction of glass recycling service • Supports introduction of food organics collection service <p>Suggests graph types in budget are changed to improve readability</p>	<p>Recycling service It is planned to introduce a separate glass recycling service after the impacts of Victoria's container deposit scheme are known. The scheme is planned to begin from 1 July 2023 and it is anticipated that this will significantly change the proportion of glass collected at the kerbside impacting any services that would be required. Recycling sorting and processing currently costs Council substantially less than sending waste to landfill, which is increasingly becoming more expensive. Council has a contract for sorting and processing all kerbside recycling including glass until 30 June 2023 and currently, removing glass will offer no cost savings to Council or the community. Council is continually looking at options to ensure costs for waste and recycling collections, processing and disposal are kept as low as possible.</p> <p>There is funding in the budget to commence preparations for the food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service which is planned to commence in 2022/23.</p> <p>Budget graphs The feedback is noted and the 3D graphs will be simplified for the Adopted Budget version that is published following adoption by Council in June. Further consideration of graph presentation will be reviewed for the subsequent year's budget.</p>
27	P Carter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports increased funding for active transport including Easy Ride Routes and the upgrade of Bushy Creek Trail. • Encourages completion of some of the Easy Ride Routes in advance of the Whitehorse Cyclists 30th Anniversary Rides day in October. 	<p>Easy Ride Route East-West 6 will be completed in the 2020/2021 financial year. Council officers have already commenced the implementation of East-West 2A and East-West 4A ahead of schedule with the sharrow line marking completed in the current financial year. Civil works as part of these routes will continue through to 2021/2022. Officers will continue to implement other priority Easy Ride Routes during 2021/2022 and subsequent years. The Bushy Creek Trail safety improvements at Woodhouse Grove are being funded by a Federal Government grant and are expected to be completed by 31 December 2021.</p>

Recommendation:

Councillors and officers have carefully reviewed and considered each submission and recommend the following changes be made to the Proposed Budget 2021/2022 as a result of submissions received:

- In response to budget submission 24, the wording of the Open Space Maintenance Service has been updated to include recognition of the education program at Yarran Dheran Nature Reserve
- In response to budget submission 26, the graph format has been updated for all pie graphs

It is noted that the Simpson Park off leash dog park budget allocation in the Proposed Budget 2021/2022 is included subject to a second stage of community engagement, which is scheduled to be undertaken in August 2021, before a decision to proceed with the project is made.