



Annual General Meeting of Electors

Minutes

Monday 29 January 2024

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held in the Undalup Room, Administration Building, Southern Drive, Busselton, on Monday 29 January 2024 at 5:30pm.

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1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The meeting opened at 5:32pm

The Mayor welcomed Councillors, staff, guests and members of the public to the Annual General Meeting of Electors held 29 January 2024.

The Mayor acknowledged the Wadandi and Bibbulmun people as the traditional custodians of this region and paid respects to Elders past and present.

This meeting was audio recorded for minute taking purposes. The meeting was also live streamed on the City of Busselton YouTube channel.

2. ATTENDANCE

PRESIDING MEMBER	MEMBERS
Mayor Phill Cronin	Cr Anne Ryan (Deputy Mayor)
	Cr Andrew Macnish
	Cr Jarrod Kennedy
	Cr Kate Cox
	Cr Val Kaigg
	Cr Sue Riccelli
	Cr Mikayla Love
	Cr Jodie Richards (<i>from 5:34pm</i>)

OFFICERS	
Ms Sarah Pierson	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Ms Maxine Palmer	Director Economic and Business Development
Mr Gary Barbour	Director Community Planning
Mr Daniell Abrahamse	Acting Director Infrastructure and Environment
Mr Paul Sheridan	Acting Director Corporate Strategy and Performance
Ms Rachel Runco	Manager Community Safety
Mr Tim Allingham	Manager Systems and Information
Ms Tegan Robertson	Governance and Risk Coordinator
Ms Jo Barrett-Lennard	Governance Officer

PUBLIC
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3. CONFIRMATION AND RECEIPT OF MINUTES

3.1. Annual General Meeting of Electors 30 January 2023

COUNCIL DECISION

C2401/1 Moved Stuart Anderson, seconded John McCallum

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors 30 January 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED

4. MEETING PURPOSE

In accordance with Regulation 15 of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*, the matters to be discussed at a General Electors' Meeting are, firstly, the contents of the Annual Report and Financial Report for the previous financial year and then any other general business.

5. MAYOR'S PRESENTATION

The Mayor presented an overview of the City's achievements in the 2022/2023 financial year.

6. RECEIPT OF THE 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT, INCLUDING THE 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

COUNCIL DECISION

C2401/2 Moved Terry Thompson, seconded John McCallum

That the City of Busselton 2022-2023 Annual Report and the 2022-2023 Financial Report be received by Electors.

CARRIED

7. OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Ray Mountney

Question

What will be the final cost of the Saltwater [Performing Arts Centre]?

Response

(Ms Maxine Palmer, Director Economic and Business Development)

The total project budget is \$44.5 million, which includes a contingency of \$3 million. The project is tracking for this financial year within the budget. As with other large and complex construction projects in the current climate, the project is running over time which can lead to further costs.

Saltwater is now anticipated to be opened in late 2024, which is later than first planned.

The City is currently reviewing the contingency budget and is formulating a budget for the Council's consideration for next financial year to complete the project.

Question

Are there issues regarding the build that are likely to have a serious impact on the costing, for example compliance issues in respect to hydraulics or fire rating, that the City is aware of?

Response

(Ms Maxine Palmer, Director Economic and Business Development)

No, these types of issues are what the contingency budget is for. The City has used some of that contingency budget, however there is still remaining contingency available. The City is now over half

way through the project, and would expect issues of the nature mentioned to have presented themselves before now.

Question

Can you give ratepayers and members of the public an assurance from the Council that the budget is set and the contingency will be the cap at this point in time?

Response

(Ms Maxine Palmer, Director Economic and Business Development)

There has been no other agreement from the Council that states otherwise.

(Ms Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City is currently reviewing the contingency budget, and if any additional funding is required, officers will be sending that information through to the Council.

Question

Parking at the beach front area at the Busselton foreshore is already inadequate. With the continued growth in visitors, pending Sydney flights, the successful opening of the Hilton [Garden Inn] hotel, a second proposed hotel and the proposed expansions with focus on the Busselton Jetty, how does the City expect to cope with the further demand for parking once the Performing Arts Centre opens?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

There are currently 2,800 parking bays within a 500m radius of Saltwater. Parking demand has been assessed as sufficient, with foreshore and town centre parking predominately used during the day, and Saltwater parking demand being mainly in the evening. Where warranted, overflow parking will be set up in Signal Park as it is now.

Event programming and planning will also consider other events happening in the area, along with seasonal variations in parking demand.

Future planning includes additional car parking at Harris Road and around Busselton Central.

Ms Jill Walsh

(On behalf of Ms Jill Eridge, Mr Vern Bussell and Mr Jonathon Leach)

Question

When the livestreaming of the Council meetings commence on YouTube, there can be up to half an hour of static screen before the meeting. Is it possible to switch the streaming on a few minutes before the meeting, rather than earlier [with the static screen]?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

This can certainly be addressed.

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City can look into a banner that displays on the screen, stating '*this meeting is scheduled to start at...*' or similar, so that people are aware the meeting is due to start. Officers will look into solutions to the issue.

Mr Rob Mildwaters

Question

The City has indicated the sediment removal process for stage one and two of the Lower Vasse River has been completed. How can this work be considered complete when there is 65% of sediment remaining?

Response

(Daniell Abrahamse, Acting Director, Infrastructure and Environment)

Stage three of the works will commence May through June 2024, the City is currently working through procurement for the project.

Stage one of the works commenced in 2022, and completed in 2023, with 630 tonnes of dry sediment removed as part of stage one. Stage two works commenced in 2023, and an estimated 700 tonnes of dry sediment was removed. It is difficult to quantify the exact amount of sediment due to the nature of the river, vegetation and river banks.

Some of the works are still ongoing, and are being monitored by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) as part of the water monitoring process. Once the City receives those results, they will be made public.

Question

The public received a report that stated only 35% of the sediment had been removed, indicating that 65% of the sediment remains. How can the project be completed if this amount still remains?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

This is something that the City has had some discussion about. It was made clear in May 2023 through a report to the Council that the intent was never to remove all sediment from the river, given the challenging environment that Mr Abrahamse referred to, it was never going to be possible for all sediment to be removed.

The important measure of success is the water quality monitoring data. DWER and the City have set up water quality monitoring, and will be looking at that data to determine the success of the trials. The Council will assess the results of the sediment removal after stage three is complete, and at that point assess the effectiveness of the program. The Council will also consider the outcomes of the current phoslock trial and put a report back to the Council to determine the next steps.

The City agrees there needs to be a monitoring period. The Council committed to stages one, two and three and the phoslock trial, and will then reassess.

Question

Will stage three been undertaken the same way, with the same dredge?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The Request for Tender will be released shortly, and the City is going back out to market to see whether there are other options available to complete the works.

Mr Vern Bussell

(Question registered online before meeting, read by Mayor Cronin)

Question

Why is there no sign of the famous historic post box returning to its rightful position, denoting the location of Busselton's first official Post Office on the corner of Queen and Adelaide Streets in Busselton's Heritage precinct?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

The post box referred to is ready for installation, the City is confirming the footing requirements which was completed today. The box will be in the same location, and it will be operational.

The 'new' box that was on the other side of the road will be removed as it is not economically viable for Australia Post to have two assets operating in the same location.

It has cost Australia Post around \$10,000 to refurbish the post office box which includes a newly cast mould of the filial on top, as the original was vandalised. The mould is from a box manufactured by the same company so it is true to the original.

Question

What is happening to the Council's promised Busselton CBD online weather station?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

Both weather stations have been commissioned, one on the roof of the Administration Building, the other at the Naturaliste Community Centre in Dunsborough. It has taken a fair amount of effort to get the data to the Weather Observation Website (WOW), which is aligned to the Bureau of Meteorology.

There is now data reporting from the two weather stations, and there are links from the City of Busselton website under 'Residents', then 'Environment'*. There will more promotion around this, so more people are aware that the City does have the link on the website.

**Note: Subsequent to the meeting, an issue was identified impacting the data feed from the weather stations to the City's website, work is currently underway to resolve the issue.*

Mr Gordon Bleechmore

Question

What process is in place to determine the completion or end date of the Performing Arts Centre?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City is currently working collaboratively with Broad Construction, the contractor for the project, to review and monitor the program completion. The City is tracking towards a second half of 2024 completion date.

Question

Has that completion date been agreed to with Broad Construction?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City and Broad Construction have not agreed a new practical completion date, but we are working collaboratively around the program of works.

Question

There is a significant amount of time since the contract was first let. Is there a penalty clause in the contract in relation to the end date?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The contract is commercial in confidence, and we cannot confirm the details of the contract.

Question

Has a penalty been triggered? If so, when?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

This matter is also commercial in confidence and cannot be discussed in this forum.

Question

Does the City employ a dedicated project manager to oversee this project?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City does have a full-time resource working on the Saltwater project, they have been seconded to the project manager position.

Question

The public have been advised that the Saltwater project was a fixed price project at \$38.5 million. Has the contingency been exhausted, given the figures are now \$44.5 million?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

\$44.5 million is the total project budget. The \$38.5 million value referred to is the construction budget value. All construction contracts have variation clauses provided for, so there is the contingency budget on top of the \$38.5 million. This contingency is \$3 million, as referred to earlier. There is also funding for landscaping and fit out. The City is currently reviewing the contingency budget to confirm that it remains suitable.

Question

When the final report for the completion of Saltwater comes through, will the community be told the final completion cost?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The final cost of the project will be communicated to the community. The City does understand that the project is of significant community interest, and will ensure the total costs are public.

Question

On the Council website there is the notice of the Annual General Meeting and the agenda, however there was no Annual Report. Was the Annual Report on the website?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The Annual Report is on the website, under the Council section called 'Governance and Transparency'. The Report can also be located using the website search functionality.

The City is always open to how things can be more visible, and next year we will look at attaching the Annual Report to the agenda as suggested.

Mr Trevor Avery

Question

The City has recently purchased a block of land in Yalyalup. Does this form part of the Sport and Recreation Facilities strategic plan? What is the future plan for this block of land, and when will the City begin community engagement?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

There is a contract of sale in place to procure that land, there are some leaseback arrangements for that land so it will be some time before the land can be used by the City. The City is looking at planning for that piece of land and potentially some noisy sport uses.

Question

What are noisy sports?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

Examples of noisy sports include shooting and motorcross, however it is very early stages so none of that detail has been confirmed.

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

The Council decided to purchase the land as a long term strategic purchase, this will allow the City to attract larger events in the future. There is future planning to be done. Future plans for the site will be subject to consultation processes at the appropriate time.

Mr Keith Sims

Question

(On behalf of Brian O'Connor)

Regarding the Annual Report, in note 23 'Financial Risk Management', there does not appear to be any reference to contract management. If this is correct, can you please confirm if any existing contracts are deemed to have a risk higher than 'low'?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

Mr O'Connor raised matters around risk management at last year's annual general meeting of electors. The City has identified its current risk management capability is at a basic level of maturity, and this is something that the City is looking to improve. The City does have around 100 risks currently captured in the Corporate Risk Register, however I am not aware of any contract risks above a low level rating captured in the register.

Question

(On behalf of Brian O'Connor)

Can the City please confirm what progress has been made in developing a contract management framework as recommended by the Auditors to the Audit and Risk Committee during 2023?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

This is part of the risk management review the City is currently undertaking. Officers are currently assessing the City's risk management framework to identify how it can be improved with respect to project risk, contract risk, strategic risk, and how we work with the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee has a proposed new Terms of Reference currently before the Council, the next step is to look towards resourcing so risk management activities can be improved.

Mr Keith Sims

Question

Regarding the Hilton Garden Inn carpark (Hilton), the Hilton has erected signs stating the car park is for guest parking only. At the Special Council Meeting 27 February 2020 at item 3.1, then CEO Mike Archer stated that part of the car park is for public use, and part is licensed to the Hilton for guest use. At item 3.2, then Mayor Grant Henley stated \$350,000 for the whole car park, but not all of that car park, would be licensed to the hotel development.

At the Council Meeting 12 August 2020 at item 7.4, the former CEO noted that the Hilton has elected to pay the City over 60 years but the Hilton does not get exclusive use over that car park.

Both the previous CEO and previous Mayor have acknowledged that the Hilton does not have exclusive use of the car park.

What steps are being taken by the City in advising the Hilton that they do not have exclusive use, and that the community also has access to that car park?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

My understanding is that the Hilton has 28 bays, with two signs up to protect those bays. The rest of the available parking is not exclusive, however we will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

The Hilton has exclusive use of a leased area of 1,420m² to provide for dedicated parking bays to service their 110 room hotel. This area is adjacent to public car parking. The Hilton has installed signage (permitted under the lease) at either end of their car park area to identify those bays exclusively used by the hotel. The City is looking at additional signage / measures to indicate the positioning and availability of the public parking adjacent to that.

Question

Will the City rangers be policing this car park?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

We will take this question on notice, in terms of the current signage and the role of the Rangers.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

City Rangers patrol public parking areas but will not be involved in the management of vehicles in the Hilton car parking area as it is covered by a lease arrangement and is for the exclusive use of Hilton.

Mr Rob Griffiths

Question

Where the water from the Vasse River comes down by the Golf Club, there is a drain that picks up the water. If there is a bung put across the drain at a certain height, open the floodgates and as the water comes in, let it come flowing through town and wash the river clean. This will move clean water through dirty water.

Could the Council please review this option for cleaning out the Vasse River?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

We will take this question on notice.

Question

Following on from that, another option is to incorporate and bring into the area, salt water coming through the drain by the [Busselton Senior] High School and pump down the river back into the ocean.

Is this an option that the City could look at?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

We will take this question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

Management of the Lower Vasse River is a complex issue which requires a partnership approach to address all sources of nutrients flowing into the river system. The current management direction for the Lower Vasse River was set by Council in May 2023, where Council resolved to support the continued staged removal of nutrient rich sediments, with the effectiveness of sediment removal as an in-situ treatment to be reviewed and assessed before committing to any further stages.

The key measurement of success will be whether the removal of sediments leads to improvement in water quality and the City, in partnership with DWER, has developed a water quality monitoring program to measure impacts from the sediment removal. It is envisaged that we will have more data at the end of stage 3 to assess that, along with the results of the Phoslock application, being undertaken by DWER.

Officers will report back to Council and at that stage Council may wish to consider other management options. It is important to note that the Lower Vasse River has high ecological values and any approach requires significant technical advice and regulatory approval, with the City's role as Interim Asset Manager governed under the Revitalizing Geographe Waterways program coordinated by the Vasse Ministerial Taskforce.

Question

Historically there was an Air Force airport, and the Air Force had special markings for bomb practice. Would the Council consider removing the last one that is left and maintain it so it can be historically placed in Busselton so everyone knows what it is?

Question

In Port Geographe where the drain comes up to the main road, can the City put a water point in so that water can come down through the drain, take the floodgates away and create an island? This could save a lot of problems, and the other side of Wonnerup will become an island.

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

We will take both these questions on notice.

The below responses were provided administratively following the meeting:

Subject to financial and logistical considerations the City will consider removing the last remaining Air Force special marking so that it can be preserved and maintained. Officers have been attempting to ascertain the location of the item. Once the location is determined further enquiries can be made about removing and preserving it.

The rivers and estuaries of Geographe are managed in partnership with a number of agencies from local and state governments. These agencies work in collaboration to manage these waterbodies, and each has a vital part to play and ownership over certain aspects. The City of Busselton is just one body within this collaboration working on waterway management, collaborating with other bodies to achieve best practice management for positive waterway, environmental and social outcomes. Any proposal to change the waterways and systems would require detailed consideration to determine the feasibility as well as any effects and impacts of the proposal.

Question

Near the Old Police Station [opposite the Weld Theatre] there is a government office that appears to be used infrequently. Is there an opportunity to ask the office to be moved, and use that area as a car park?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

In my first week as Mayor I met with Hon. David Templeman MLA, and expressed the City's interest in acquiring that land. The City is now continuing discussions with the relevant departments.

Mr Michael Stewart

Question

Someone in the City has been planning to put a Granny Flat on his property right along the fence line adjoining his neighbours. The neighbours have stated this is not appropriate. Is this true that one cannot put a building on the fence line?

Response

(Gary Barbour, Director Community Planning)

This does depend on the coding of the property, where the property is and where the building is to be located.

Mr Tony Sharp

Question

Does the City have any feedback from the Minister for Planning regarding the Amendment 52? There was speculation that this was going to be decided by the end of 2023, and we have not yet heard anything.

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City has not yet been advised, although officers do believe that a decision is imminent. It is still with the Minister.

Question

Are we expecting Amendment 52 to come out prior to the Precinct Structure Plan agreement approval?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

These will both come out together.

Question

Parking in Dunsborough over the summer has been tricky, and the community is waiting for the large car park at Woolworths to open. There appears to be no work being done on the Main Roads section of Caves Road, which is a key part of the development. Will this cause a delay in the opening of Woolworths, or can Woolworths open prior to that road being put in?

Response

(Daniell Abrahamse, Acting Director Infrastructure and Environment)

The City will ask the question of Main Roads, we will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

The Caves Road works are a condition of the development approval, and the responsibility of the developer, construction works are entirely controlled by the developer including timing. The works are under construction and it is anticipated that these works will be completed around the same time that construction of the building will be completed. Unless otherwise agreed the works must be completed prior to the store opening.

Mr Don Evill

Question

Why is the Chief Executive Officer away?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

The Chief Executive Officer is currently on personal leave, which is an entitlement of his employment.

Question

When referring to parking spaces available in the City precinct, are the car parks at the Esplanade Hotel included in that count?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

No, the Esplanade car park is a private car park. The 2,800 car parks referred to are public car parks, of which there is a map available on the City's website.

Question

What does the City do about parking on private property, across driveways and on corners?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

This is addressed via the City's by-laws.

Question

Why were these by-laws not enforced during the recent Iron Man event?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City monitors parking through its Parking Officers as part of its Rangers team. The City can't monitor all parking at all times, but the City does what it can with the resources available.

Response

(Rachel Runco, Manager Community Safety)

The City did receive complaints following the Iron Man, and Rangers did patrol at that event. On a weekend we only have two Rangers on duty and they are spread across the District. At this event, infringements and cautions were issued.

Question

Can you please advise how many infringement notices were issued on the day of the Iron Man?

Response

(Rachel Runco, Manager Community Safety)

We will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

There were 2 infringements issued.

Question

There is a permanent skip bin taking up an entire car parking bay [opposite the beachfront skate park] that has been there for a number of months. Parking is at a premium, why can't the skip bin be put on City property?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

We will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

A bin is placed in this parking bay on a seasonal basis to deal with the increased waste at the foreshore during the peak periods. The location was selected based on the need for truck access and to minimise damage to other infrastructure. The City will look into the potential of relocating this skip bin to a different location in the future so that this parking bay can be accessed.

Ms Mariah Gorla

Question

In the Annual Report it states that employee costs for the year is \$35 million. How many employees does the City have?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City currently has 350 full time and part time employees, and depending on the number of casuals that we employ each fortnight this number can go up to 500. The employee cost figure is inclusive of direct salaries and wages, as well as the ancillary costs that make employment matters, This includes recruitment costs, training costs, and uniform costs among other things.

Question

The Annual Report does not state if the City uses any consultants?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

The City uses a variety of consultants, this is listed under 'Materials and Contracts' in the budget.

Question

Can you confirm the total amount spent on consultants?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

We will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

A total of \$1.9 million was spent by the City on consultants in the 2022 / 2023 financial year.

Question

What is the difference between an extractive licence and a mining licence?

Response

(Gary Barbour, Director Community Planning)

We will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

The key difference is the type of mineral being extracted. The Mining Act 1978 does not deal with Basic Raw Materials extracted on private land so require a planning approval as an extractive industry. All other minerals are covered under the Mining Act 1978

An extractive industry is defined as;

a premises, other than premises used for mining operations, that are used for the extraction of basic raw materials including by means of ripping, blasting or dredging and may include facilities for any of the following purposes – (a) the processing of raw materials including crushing, screening, washing, blending or grading, (b) activities associated with the extraction of basic raw materials including wastewater treatment, storage, rehabilitation, loading, transportation, maintenance and administration.

More information on what constitutes a basic raw material can be found in State Planning Policy 2.4.

Question

Given the issues we are having with extractive industry next door to us, and the repeated complaints regarding the extraction, when will the City revoke the licence?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

We will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

The City investigates complaints received in relation to extractive industries and takes appropriate action as required. Extractive industry approvals are issued under the Planning and Development Act. There is no ability for the City revoke an approval, only to issue notices or prosecute where there is sufficient evidence of a breach of the approval.

Mr Michael Stewart

Question

How was the new [Saltwater] construction permitted in a heritage listed area of Busselton?

Response

(Maxine Palmer, Director Economic and Business Development)

There was a lengthy planning process with the Heritage Council of Western Australia, in which they informed the design of the building and provided approval for the building to be constructed. Feedback from the Heritage Council was a preference for complete integration with the two heritage buildings either side of the new development, and not to build something that didn't interface and work with them.

The City has consulted for a number of years with the Busselton Repertory Club, the lessees and tenants of the Weld Theatre, and they have also been fully involved in the design of Saltwater.

Question

Is the construction company to be held liable for the structural damage done to the Weld Theatre during construction of Saltwater?

Response

(Maxine Palmer, Director Economic and Business Development)

There was some structural damage caused when the footings were removed for integration works, and that remediation work was fully paid for by the construction company.

The Weld Theatre has been improved as part of this process, including new structural beams and a complete rewiring of the facility.

Mr Terry Carmichael

Question

Over the last three years, the Dunsborough Districts Progress Association (DDPA) has repeatedly requested a plan for the Dunsborough foreshore. Can the City provide a direct timeline for when a plan for the foreshore will be made available?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

This project is in the Corporate Business Plan as an action planned for the remainder of the 2023/2024 financial year and the following year, as a coastal nodes planning exercise for the Dunsborough foreshore. The planning is expected to take some time.

Question

Could the City explain why the DDPA was told three years ago that the plan was coming through, however now the plan is going to be another 18 months? Why is this plan taking so long?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

There has been a prioritisation of workload and other planning activities. The City has not yet been able to prioritise that planning work for the Dunsborough foreshore.

Planning in Dunsborough is an important part of the City's process, however the City has been focused on other matters within Dunsborough, including undertaking Dunsborough Town Centre planning through the Precinct Structure Plan, Community and Recreation planning, and Youth planning. There has been focus in the Dunsborough community around planning for infrastructure and facilities, however at this stage the foreshore planning is still to happen.

Question

What has been worked on and planned for the foreshore in the past four years?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

We will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

Over the past four years the City has completed various minor works along the Dunsborough foreshore including pathway and lighting upgrades, exercise equipment and landscape renewal. The City has an action within its Corporate Business Plan to prepare a master plan for the further development of Dunsborough Foreshore – scheduled to commence in this current financial year – 2023/2024 and conclude in the 2024/2025 financial year. The City will be carrying out a scoping exercise over the next 12 months to further develop a master plan for this area, looking at the needs and functionality of the area. The scoping exercise will provide information on the requirement for potential additions and upgrades. It is apparent there are many competing demands on the Dunsborough foreshore from community groups and residents, these have been discussed over a number of years, including boat ramp facilities, yacht club and aquatic sports, disabled access, business opportunities (cafes etc.), toilets, parking, general infrastructure (BBQs, showers etc.), nature based play equipment, vegetation management/reserve management and protection, and coastal protection.

Question

Will the City present to the DDPA on the foreshore concepts? The community is very concerned about the state of the foreshore.

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

We will take that question on notice and look to come back to the DDPA with further information.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

Officers will contact the DDPA to discuss the intended schedule of planning from here.

Mr Rick Kehoe

Question

On page 49 of the Financial Statement under expenditure, there is 'Other' expenditure listed. In 2022 this was roughly \$3.2 million, in 2023 this was budgeted to be \$5.5 million. The actual expenditure was \$10.7 million. Can the City please clarify what 'Other' expenditure includes?

Response

(Mayor Phill Cronin)

We will take that question on notice.

The below response was provided administratively following the meeting:

The increase from 2022 to 2023 can be explained by reference to note 16 of the publicly available audited financial statements, reflecting provisioning for resolving legacy contamination issues associated with the Busselton Waste Transfer Station.

Ms Jill Walsh

Question

There have been a lot of questions taken on notice tonight, will the responses to these questions be published in the minutes of the meeting?

Response

(Sarah Pierson, Acting Chief Executive Officer)

All responses to questions taken on notice tonight will be recorded in the minutes.

8. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 6:45pm.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Electors held 29 January 2024 were confirmed as a true and correct record on

Date:

Presiding Member: