

Officers' status update on the issues raised in the submissions via have your say

1. Lack of investment in Highett

Highett receiving a disproportionately low share of the budget to address the infrastructure and service needs of the growing population (71% of submissions).

Response

The State Government is currently undertaking a number of strategic projects which will have an impact on the future of Bayside, with a direct impact on Hampton East, Highett, and Pennydale. These projects include the delivery of the Activity Centre Program and the Suburban Rail Loop Project. Both of these projects have an emphasis on increasing residential development and densities close to existing and proposed transport and commercial centres. The State Government will also be delivering the Level Crossing Removal at Highett and Wickham Roads by 2029.

Currently the work completed by the State Government is still in its initial phase with the strategic planning for Hampton East Activity Centre project expected to be delivered in late 2024 and the SRL expected to be delivered in mid-2025. Once there is clarity on the State Government's planning direction, Council will be in a better position to focus on what services and infrastructure may need to be supported. It is expected that this will be reflected in the 2025/26 and beyond annual budgets.

The development of the CSIRO site has been considered in context with the area its located and will result in the delivery of community facilities and public open space on the site along with traffic enhancements including the signalisation of the Graham Road and Bay Road intersection.

Road Safety & Traffic Management concerns

2. Bay Road traffic management

i) We need a crossing on bay Rd opposite Aldi to cross safely. To break up traffic so you can turn right from Beaumaris Pde and the other St. The traffic is so busy and the trees planted makes seeing a nightmare.

(ii) Bay Road is a big traffic problem, especially around Southland. Traffic is not managed properly with non-existent lane markings (merge from 2 into 1). A dedicated bike path needs to be built off the road for safety as traffic gets banked up during peak time. What funding has been allocated by the council for traffic studies and the impact of the SRL at William Fry Reserve.

Response

Bay Road is an arterial road under the control and management of the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). Any consideration of a pedestrian crossing on Bay Road would be matter for DTP to consider.

Council is currently assessing the impact of the SRL precinct on Bay Road and the local road network and will form an advocacy position through the development of a formal

position paper. Improved active transport connections, including cycle paths, will be considered through this process.

3. Traffic congestion Wickham & Highett Roads

i) We need to remove the Highett railway crossing on Highett Road and the Wickham Road crossing, it's an absolute nightmare, and with the massive development on Graham Road introducing 1000 new apartments, it will be impossible to get through Highett.

ii) Highett needs an up-to-date traffic study which has not been completed for a decade. Traffic is out of control. A focus on crime reduction is essential. At times we feel unsafe walking our streets. Considerations for parking permits need to apply where commercial businesses are an issue.

iii) The roads are congested along Wickham & Highett Roads. If we are building new apartments (Highett Commons) we will see a huge increase in traffic. Please spend more money to ease this congestion. I sit at the lights/train tracks for ages!!!! It is a nightmare.

Response

The State Government's Level Crossing Removal Project includes a commitment to remove the level crossings on both Highett Road and Wickham Road. The timing of these removals is not currently known. Up to date information can be found on their website at <https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/projects/level-crossing-removal-project/projects/frankston>. It is anticipated that the removal of these level crossings will ease congestion at the level crossing locations and improve traffic flow along Highett and Wickham Roads.

The entitlements and conditions of issue of our Residential Parking Permits are outlined within Council's Parking Permit Policy 2023. The Policy is available on the Council website at <https://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-08/Parking%20Permit%20Scheme%20Policy%20-%20ENDORSED%2015%208%2023.pdf>.

4. Safe cycling concerns

I am disappointed to see that the budget neglects to address 'density and inclusiveness,' such as the lack of provisions for safe bicycle tracks like those established by neighbouring councils. Issues regarding traffic speed, street parking, and parking on secondary roads and complex intersections like Bluff Road and Tulip Street have not been addressed. Despite our previous survey on safe cycling starting at Sandringham station, the results of which have been disregarded.

Moreover, safety concerns for children cycling to and from school remain unattended. Specifically, the intersections of Balcombe Road and Reserve Road, as well as the safety along Balcombe Road and streets connecting to Black Rock Primary which require immediate attention.

Response

Bluff Road is an arterial road under the control and management of the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), and as such any improvements to the intersection of Bluff Road and Tulip Street require DTP action. Officers have advocated for improvements at this intersection and on Bluff Road from Tulip Street to Royal Avenue to improve pedestrian and cycling movements.

Similarly to Bluff Road, Balcombe Road is an arterial road under the control and management of DTP. Council has advocated to DTP for a number of safety improvements in this area recently, and will continue to do so.

We regularly respond to community requests that seek safety and infrastructure improvements, with ad hoc works delivered along the Bay Trail and cycle path improvements at busier centres.

Council will soon commence delivery of stage one of the proposed cycling connection between Sandringham and Cheltenham.

5. Bins at bus stops

- i) Bins at bus stops around bayside need to be improved as litter is becoming normal.
- ii) Highett bus stop doesn't have any seating or bins currently.

Response

Council is currently auditing all major use areas including activity centres, bus stops and in front of schools. This info will be used to manage the performance of the contractor who empties the bins if needed (including how frequently bins are emptied). Data will also be collected to identify bins that need to be installed or upgraded. This work will be delivered from 24/25's Street Furniture Budget as well as repurposed bins that have been removed from other areas.

Public Safety concerns

6. Increase in homeless people since the removal of housing commission on Bluff Rd.

Since the removal of the housing commission housing on the corner off Bluff and Wickham Rd, I have seen an increase in drug affected people wandering the streets. Where have these people moved to? Have they been offered housing or left to fend for themselves. I think that there should be something done about the amount of homeless and drug affected people.

Response

All residents of the housing estate on the corner of Bluff and Wickham Roads were supported into alternative housing both within Bayside and in other metro municipalities. This included practical assistance as required to move and settle into the new housing provisions, which was led and managed by the State Government.

Council recognises homelessness and insecure housing is a growing issue within the Bayside municipality. The Bayside Community Care Team conducts outreach to people who are sleeping rough and assists to find accommodation and connect rough sleepers to relevant support agencies. The team also works with those who are experiencing other forms of homelessness or at risk of homelessness by providing advocacy, case management and practical assistance with specialist services. Community Care receive and action any reports from local businesses and community members relating to concern for people who may be experiencing vulnerability such as homelessness or complex health issues.

Infrastructure upgrades

7. Warm Water Pool

I'd really like to see money spent on getting the proposed hydrotherapy pool built now. I'm with My Aged Care but have been told the waiting list at Caulfield hospital is TOO long and so was transferred months ago to Moorabbin. I'm now 60th on the waiting list of 120.

Response

Council has submitted its planning permit application for the warm water pool which is currently under consideration. Council has allocated \$28.9 million over the four year capital program to facilitate development of the site, which we anticipate will be operational by late 2027.

8. Investment in Cheltenham Bayside – Pennydale Park

Very disappointed about the lack of support for Cheltenham bayside which gets left behind like the poor cousin. We have playgrounds such as Pennydale Park next door to our local kindergarten that has not been updated in decades bar some shade sails and has parts which are completely dangerous. Yet playgrounds in Brighton (middle crescent) have been prioritised which would in no way have the same amount of usage. There is also a desperate need to put a gate on the opposite end of Pennydale Park (Paul street) to keep children from running onto the road. I implore the council to make decisions to improve bayside fairly and not favour Brighton and the wealthier suburbs constantly.

Response

Council has not allocated any significant enhancements to Pennydale park aside from ongoing maintenance and renewal costs. The potential for a gate at the access to Paul Street has been considered however has been previously ruled out due to infrastructure constraints.

9. Peterson Reserve deferral

i) Disappointing to see funds being allocated to certain projects when there are Council assets/facilities that remain de-prioritised causing 'real' community impacts and lack of usability. The Peterson Reserve precinct is specifically the focus of this comment on the back of a recent meeting with the Mayor and a walk through of the appalling facilities that no family is comfortable for their child to use. The impact to the local sporting clubs that use these grounds is real in dropping participation rates and in the middle of winter, kids being forced to get changed outside. What an embarrassment for when visiting teams come to 'beautiful' bayside only to be presented with these facilities.

ii) Peterson Reserve is in dire need of an uplift and is an eyesore to the community.

Response

Council has listed the Peterson Reserve pavilions for renewal to commence from 2025/26.

10. Request for more Skateparks in Bayside

Would love to see investment in new skatepark as the old ones are outdated.

Response

Council is currently updating its Recreation Strategy which will consider the provision of skate parks across Bayside. The Strategy is expected to be finalised by 30 June 2025 with any actions arising from the strategy to be considered as part of future Council budget processes.

11. Sandringham Life Saving Club

What about the Sandringham Life Saving Club and surrounding beach/foreshore? It's probably one of the oldest club houses and is heavily used by a range of different community groups from volunteer patrollers and members to silver salties and the general public. It's in desperate need of an upgrade - inside and out. Plus, there is one public toilet which is not even close to being sufficient during the busy months!

Response

The Sandringham Lifesaving Club is not identified in Council's Sportsground Pavilion Improvement Plan and Council does not currently have budget allocated to undertake any significant renewal of the facility. The tenant of the facility has full responsibility for maintenance and capital improvement of the site.

12. Sporting facilities for teenagers

I would encourage council to consider local sporting facilities for teenagers. For example, without much cost outlay, the old Cummins Road Dendy park playground equipment could be replaced by a basketball court/half court and provide much needed local option to keep teenagers happy, healthy, off technology and supporting health and wellbeing.

Response

Council is currently updating its Recreation Strategy which will consider the provision of recreation assets across Bayside. The Strategy is expected to be finalised by 30 June 2025 with any actions arising from the strategy to be considered as part of future Council budget processes.

13. More dog Parks in Highett

a) I am pleading that council consider a low-cost project that would have significant impact. Please turn the block of land with an old run-down playground in it on Spring St Highett into a dog park. There are 2 fantastic playgrounds (albeit only catering for very young kids) at Basterfield park. The Spring St park equipment is old and rundown. All it really needs is a water tap for the dogs. This would support local dog owners, improve people's incentive to walk rather than drive to a park and also reduce emissions. This is a cheap no brainer for great outcomes.

b) Highett desperately requires dedicated off lead dog parks. I feel we are neglected and forgotten. Sharing facilities with sports fields is not working as the sporting events are prioritised meaning I can seldom walk dogs during ever increasing sporting events. The new Sandringham Netball Centre also decreases access to Merindah Park as Sandringham Secondary College chose to block access from Bay Road.

Please consider the difficulty dog owners in Highett face with literally no place to take our beloved animals.

Response

Council is currently updating its Open Space Strategy which will provide guidance as to the use of public open space across Bayside. This work is expected to be completed by 30 June 2025 and will provide guidance around any potential changes to how open space is used or managed.

14. Investment in Beaumaris

It doesn't look like Beaumaris has had much included in this budget other than the Art building that has already commenced. The concourse pavilion update has not been included, even though it was meant to be endorsed last November.

Response

At its ordinary meeting on 21 November, 2023 Council endorsed the concept design for the permanent shelter and referred it to the four-year capital works program for further consideration, prioritisation, and funding. At present this is scheduled for 2028/29. As a temporary measure Council allocated \$30K per annum to fund the maintenance and up-keep of the temporary marquee.

Road and footpath maintenance

15. Support for the upgrade of laneway surface in Davie Lane Brighton.

We are delighted that the "upgrade of laneway surface in Davie Lane, Brighton" is a line item (on Page 66) of the Bayside City Council Budget 2024/25. Some of our neighbours have been waiting for this project for more than 10 years. All owners/tenants with properties on or adjoining Davie Lane were signatories to a Petition submitted to Council in March 2022.

Our hope is that this project can be completed in the 1st Half of 2024/'25, eliminating dust produced whenever a vehicle drives on Davie Lane and also flooding after a torrential downpour.

It remains for us to express our thanks to all Councillors (for the unanimous vote of approval at the July 2022 Council Meeting), Mick Cummins, CEO (for his letter on March 15, 2024) and Jill Colson, Director Environment, Recreation & Infrastructure) for her support in this process.

Response

Support for the inclusion of funds in the budget to upgrade laneway surface in Davie Lane Brighton is noted.

16. Footpaths in Beaumaris

I have noticed that there are lots of old and uneven footpaths around Beaumaris. I have seen (and been) people tripping over on the uneven pavement. If an elderly person tripped over, it could cost their life. It would be great to invest in the footpaths, especially around parks and playgrounds.

Response

Council Road Management Plan 2023 outlines the service level standard for footpaths across the municipality. Footpaths are inspected and footpaths defects are rectified in accordance with this program by Council's maintenance contractor. Additionally, a footpath renewal program is delivered each year. The list of projects for this program comes from condition data that is collected every 4 years. The proposed Annual Footpath Renewal Budget in 2024/25 is \$2.1M. In 2023/24 \$352,000 of the \$2.064 budget was spent on projects in Beaumaris.

17. Roads

i) Fix our roads, I'm sick of driving over pot holes. It seems I constantly see workman delaying our travel, yet when they pack up and leave. I can't see any difference in the roads. It's a farce!!

ii) Roads around Highett are starting to deteriorate and are in need of action.

Response

Council Road Management Plan 2023 outlines the service level standard for Council roads across the municipality. Roads are inspected and road defects are rectified in accordance with this program by Council's maintenance contractor. Additionally, a road annual resurfacing program is delivered each year. The list of projects for this program comes from condition data that is collected every 4 years. This data has just been collected and is currently being finalised to inform next years program. The proposed annual budget in 2024/25 is \$1.761M.

There is nothing in the budget for Black Rock. Area looks very tired, paving at shops is horrible and safety issue. All funding seems to go towards Brighton! Don't Gidget other areas.

Response

As part of the Annual Footpath Renewal Program a \$47,000 project at Black Rock Activity Centre (shops) is being delivered late this financial year/early in the new financial year. The scope of this project includes spot brick paver reinstatement works for the East side of Bluff Road/Karrakatta and North side of Balcombe Road and replacement of existing deteriorated wooden bollards.

Focus of Council

i) The council plan has become too focused on woke issues and has lost sight of providing services to local rate payers and residents. The council strategy and goals need an overhaul to get back to basics like roads, rates, rubbish, recreation and reading. Consultation groups should be chosen randomly rather than by third party consultants with social bias.

ii) I believe 'lofty goals' can have their place but only after the primary responsibilities of council have been met. The community at large is feeling the effect of sustained high inflation, so it is important that council show how they are allocating ratepayer money responsibly. Terms like 'Climate Emergency' are alarmist and currently unproven, so don't use them. It is imperative that Bayside City Council remember their primary role - maintenance of local roads, footpaths, and drainage systems, waste management and recycling services, parks, recreational facilities, and public spaces, libraries and community centres, animal control and local environmental initiatives.

iii) I feel as usual my corner of Bayside is ignored. Living in Cheltenham - I feel ignored by council.

Response

The Council Plan is developed by Councillors based on community concerns and priorities and tested with the community.

Consultation for the next council plan 2025-2029 will commence later in 2024 with a new Council after elections in October 2024, supported by a community panel to assist council. All Bayside residents and ratepayers will be invited to express interest to participate. Panellists will be selected through random selection anonymously aligned to our municipal demographics (across suburbs, age groups etc) in August- September. This process is specifically intended to ensure that no one group has undue influence, and all voices have an opportunity to be involved.

18. Focus on Finance

The focus seems to be alright at a time when people are finding it financially difficult. I believe a focus on finance that is a reduction on spending and reduce the budget on building by 50% that is from \$30m to \$15m.

Response

Suggestion is noted.