

MINUTES.

Electors' General Meeting

8 February 2022

Notice of Meeting

Mayor and Councillors

Here within are the Minutes of the Electors' General Meeting of the City of South Perth Council held Tuesday 8 February 2022 in the Council Chamber, corner Sandgate Street and South Terrace, South Perth.



MIKE BRADFORD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

23 February 2022

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaartdjinin Nidja Nyungar Whadjuk Boodjar Koora Nidja Djining Noonakoort kaartdijin wangkiny, maam, gnarnk and boordier Nidja Whadjuk kura kura.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the traditional custodians of this land, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and their Elders past and present.

Our Guiding Values



Disclaimer

The City of South Perth disclaims any liability for any loss arising from any person or body relying on any statement, discussion, recommendation or decision made during this meeting.

Where an application for an approval, a licence or the like is discussed or determined during this meeting, the City warns that neither the applicant, nor any other person or body, should rely upon that discussion or determination until written notice of either an approval and the conditions which relate to it, or the refusal of the application has been issued by the City.

Contents

- 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS 4
- 2. DISCLAIMER 4
- 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER 4
- 4. ATTENDANCE 4
 - 4.1 APOLOGIES 4
 - 4.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE 5
- 5. CITY OF SOUTH PERTH PRESENTATION OF THE 2020/21 YEAR 5
- 6. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORT OF THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021 8
- 7. GENERAL BUSINESS 11
- 8. CLOSURE 30



Electors' General Meeting – Agenda

In accordance with Section 5.27 of the *Local Government Act 1995* and the Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996, the Order of Business will be as follows:

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6.01pm and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. DISCLAIMER

The Presiding Member read aloud the City's Disclaimer.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDING MEMBER

The Presiding Member outlined the format of the Elector's General Meeting.

4. ATTENDANCE

Mayor Greg Milner (Presiding Member)

Councillors

Como Ward

Manning Ward

Manning Ward

Moresby Ward

Moresby Ward

Mill Point Ward

Mill Point Ward

Councillor Carl Celedin

Councillor André Brender-A-Brandis

Councillor Blake D'Souza

Councillor Stephen Russell

Councillor Jennifer Nevard

Councillor Ken Manolas (from 6.08pm)

Councillor Mary Choy

Officers

Chief Executive Officer

Director Corporate Services

Director Development and Community Services

Director Infrastructure Services

Manager Business & Construction

Manager Customer, Communications and Engagement

Manager Finance

Manager Governance

Governance Coordinator

RAF Project Advisor

Governance Officer

Mr Mike Bradford

Mr Garry Adams

Ms Vicki Lummer

Mr Mark Taylor

Ms Jacqueline Scott

Ms Danielle Cattalini

Mr Abrie Lacock

Ms Bernadine Tucker

Ms Toni Fry

Ms Rebecca de Boer

Mr Morgan Hindle

Gallery

There were approximately 20 members of the public present.

4.1 APOLOGIES

Nil.

4.2 APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

- Councillor Glenn Cridland for the period 1 February 2022 to 28 February 2022 inclusive.

Councillor Ken Manolas arrived at 6.08pm during consideration of Item 5.

5. CITY OF SOUTH PERTH PRESENTATION OF THE 2020/21 YEAR

The Presiding Member read aloud the following:

“Welcome. We are here this evening to present the 2020/21 Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditors Report to you, the Electors.

- *The 2020/21 financial year was a year of remarkable achievement at the City, despite the various challenges posed by COVID-19.*
- *It’s been wonderful to see the progress the City has made on a range of fronts to achieve our vision of a city of active places and beautiful spaces, with sustainable financial management setting us up for the future.*
- *The 2020/21 Annual Report which Council has endorsed captures the opportunities, challenges and achievements of the last financial year.*
- *The report details the very diverse range of services, community programs, cultural events, infrastructure works and major projects that the City delivered across the year.*

The theme of the 2020/21 Annual Report is ‘beautiful places’ which acknowledges some of the year’s achievements in creating a vibrant and attractive destination for visitors and residents. The opening of the Collier Park Mini Golf, the Ferry Tram, the major restoration of the Old Mill and the commencement of the Black Swan Habitat at South Perth Foreshore were all important works commenced or completed within the financial year as an investment in the future of our City, ensuring it continues to be a beautiful place to live and visit.

Responsible Financial Management

- *In an uncertain economic environment, Council worked hard to reduce the financial burden on ratepayers with the 2020/21 Budget seeing an average rates reduction of 1% for ratepayers, and no change to the City’s waste levy.*
- *Positive steps to improve the City’s financial health were reflected in the City receiving a Financial Health Indicator score of 71 out of 100. A welcome increase from previous years.*
- *Sensible economic management and improved financial efficiency meant that we were able to do more for our community.*

New Mini Golf Facility

- *The City's new Mini Golf facility at Collier Park Golf was opened in April. The facility is magnificent and makes a wonderful addition to the existing golf course.*
- *Located in a beautiful, leafy, family-friendly environment, Mini Golf is a fun outdoor activity for everyone to enjoy.*
- *The project has an estimated payback period of six years, the facility will provide the City with an additional revenue stream and reduce the City's reliance on residential rates after the payback period.*

Black Swan Habitat Project

- *The City secured a \$700,000 grant from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to create vital habitat for black swans and other wildlife. Work started in January with the project being completed in September.*
- *Covering an area of 5,000 square meters, the Black Swan Habitat comprises a sheltered area for birds to nest safely, two vegetated headlands and a beach area that allows waterbirds to take off and land in a sheltered area when the water is rough. The project has been designed to enhance the foreshore and protect the riverbank from erosion in the future.*

Underground Power Project

- *Work on the State Underground Power Program began in the Collier project area in March. This will result in improved property values, better power supply reliability, enhanced street lighting, increased tree canopy cover, greener streets, reduced summer heat and a more beautiful City.*
- *The City was successful in securing a \$2.2 million COVID-19 stimulus package from Western Power to reduce costs to ratepayers receiving underground power in the Collier and Manning project areas.*

Supporting Local Jobs, Local Businesses and the Local Economy

- *We recognise that local businesses are the lifeblood of our local community.*
- *2020/21 saw the expansion of the City's new Economic Development focus, with the commencement of the new Economic Development Plan, the continuation of the Buy Local, Shop Local campaign, our first Local Business Forum, the City's commitments to the Small Business Friendly Local Governments Charter, and the Small Business Development Corporation recognising the City as a Small Business Friendly Local Government.*

Strategic Planning

- *We took steps to improve our strategic planning framework. In July, Council considered and endorsed an amended Local Planning Strategy to guide the development of a new Local Planning Scheme.*
- *The City also, for the first time, developed an Integrated Transport Plan to shape and inform future strategic planning decision.*

Looking Forward

- *Looking forward, the 2021/22 Budget sees responsible and targeted investment in key projects that will benefit our community for generations to come, while still being mindful of the financial pressures many households are facing.*
- *The Budget also makes responsible provision for the future, delivering the first net increase in the City's financial reserves since the 2014/15 financial year. This will improve the City's ability to maintain and replace assets critical to the service and amenity of the community.*

Partnerships

- *Of course, very little of our work is done in isolation. Shared decision making and effective working partnerships with federal and state government, other local governments, non-government organisations, business, and our community are critical to ongoing success. Projects like the Black Swan Habitat and Underground Power demonstrates this. We will continue this collaborative work in 2022.*
- *It has been a privilege to work in collaboration with my fellow Councillors and the City's administration as we strive to achieve our vision of a city of active places and beautiful spaces.*
- *It is an honour to serve as your Council. We look forward to working with our entire community to continue to deliver great outcomes for this wonderful City."*

6. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS REPORT OF THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

Mr Garry Adams, the Director Corporate Services provided an overview of the Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2021 and read aloud the following:

"The financial statements were presented to Council on 14 December 2021, previously the financial statements together with the annual report would have gone to the annual Electors General meeting in December however the Auditor General wanted to complete the Information Services Audit, which is linked to the City's Annual Financial Audit before finalising its opinion on the City's Annual Financial Report.

The Auditor General issued its audit opinion on the 19 November 2021.

Once again the WA auditor general provided an unqualified opinion which is on page numbers 2,3 and 4. In terms of the financials I won't go into a lot of the details, I will say that in spite Covid-19 the City has still managed to improve its overall financial position and that the impact of Covid-19 was less than anticipated.

There are a range of detailed issues that have been reported throughout the year, including the impact of Covid-19. I will just reference a couple things in relation to the income statement which is on page 5. Overall, the City managed to keep revenue at the same level as the year before \$59.24m, however ideally this figure should have exceeded last year's result. Fees and Charges income were much better than initially anticipated exceeding last year's by \$1.4m mainly due to revenue from Collier Park Golf Course, this was offset by a significant reduction in interest revenue approximating \$860k. Much lower interest earned on funds invested is a direct result of the macro-economic situation created by Covid-19.

Overall expenditure was \$1m lower than last year and \$290k lower than original budget, testimony to the City's continued efforts to manage its operating expenditure. Stable revenue and managed expenditure resulted in an improvement in the net operating result, the operating loss of \$2,16m a \$1m improvement over the prior year and \$3.3m better than budget is a good result under the circumstances. Over the coming years the City needs to continue to work on improving its revenues and maintaining a tight rein on expenditure in order to return to a net operating surplus position. This will be the subject of the City's budget discussions scheduled over the next few months."

The Presiding Member called for questions relating to the Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2021.

The following questions was asked by Mr Peter Scott of Como at the Electors General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

Mr Peter Scott: I have got several questions related to the City's Reserves. I refer to the 30 November 2021 financial statement which was presented at the December Ordinary Council Meeting. In that statement it was reported that the Community Facilities Reserve balance totalled \$10.66m.

My first question is, how has this reserve fund been increased and where have the funds come from?

Mr Abrie Lacock (MF): To answer that question the reason for the increase in the reserves is mainly driven by funds being allocated to accumulate funds for the purposes of major community facilities and with that in mind \$5.5m received from the Federal Government was allocated to that reserve as well as the proceeds from the sale of Angelo Street, which was as per the Council Resolution, that was also allocated to that reserve. That represents the major substance of the allocation to that reserve over that period.

Mr Peter Scott: I noted that in the Council's 2021/22 budget it shows an amount of nearly \$22m in the Community Facilities Reserve. I would like to know where the additional funds are coming from as that more than doubles the current reserve?

Mr Abrie Lacock (MF): It is anticipated that a further \$7m will be received from the Federal Government for the Recreation Aquatic Facility which would be placed in that reserve and through the budget adoption process the City has set aside approximately \$3m of its own funds to transfer into that reserve. That is very much in line with the statements that the Mayor made earlier in his opening address, in terms of how the City is approaching the future going forward.

Mr Peter Scott: It was reported in the 30 November 2021 financial statement that the Collier Park Village Residents offset reserve was just under \$19m whereas the leaseholder liability is just over \$26m. This means this reserve is approximately \$7m lower than the leaseholder liability. My question is, why has this shortfall in funding occurred and where were the funds spent that resulted in the shortfall?

Mr Garry Adams (DCS): The Collier Park Residents Reserve was established to receive funds to partially cut cash back the residents liability. Previous to that, funds would have been spent within the village but once that reserve was established and there was a Council policy enacted to put funds received from incoming residents into that reserve, that reserve has built up overtime and will continue to build up because none of those funds are currently being used for anything, other than to sit in that reserve. It is interesting to note that whilst we recognise that in our financial statements that there is a current liability of some \$26m, that has not always been recognised that way. It was due to an accounting treatment change in around 2016/17 where the City was required to recognise the whole liability as a current liability. Even though, the amount paid out of that reserve is only for people exiting the village.

In order for the whole \$26m to become liable in any one year, everybody would have to exit that village at the same time, which is actually not going to happen. So, it is really due to an accounting treatment change that the whole liability is recognised as a current liability. Previously it was recognised as a non-current liability.

Mr Peter Scott: Is there a plan to feed money into that reserve to meet the liability?

Mr Garry Adams (DCS): Currently, all the City's obligations to residents are met. Obviously, what happens is when one resident exits the village, another one generally comes in and pays an incoming. What you are talking about is currently the subject of a Council Resolution to provide a report regarding that reserve back to the Audit, Risk and Governance Committee which will be done in March and there will be some more commentary around that reserve and the use of that reserve in that report. As I mentioned to be clear, the City's liability and obligations to its residents are met and there is obviously some further information we will be providing to the public regarding Collier Park Village and that reserve in the near future.

The Presiding Member called for any further questions relating to the Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2021.

The following question was asked by Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth at the Electors General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

Ms Cecilia Brooke: I do not have a comment of any of those things, but I would like to refer back to what Councillor Russell said. I do appreciate that we do not get the printed material that we have got for years and years and years with the Agenda and for things like that because I realise it is a cost saving measure. But for the Electors' General Meeting it would be appreciated if there was some paperwork that we could look at.

Mayor Milner: We can take that on board for future meetings.

The Presiding Member called for a mover and seconder to accept the 2020/21 Annual Report, Annual Financial Statements and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2021.

DECISION

Moved: Mr Warwick Boardman of Unwin Crescent, Salter Point

Seconded: Mr Stephen Kelly of Pether Road, Manning.

That the Annual Report for the City of South Perth for the year 2020/21, the 2020/21 Annual Financial Statements and the 2019/20 Auditor's Report, be accepted.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Presiding Member invited questions and statements from the Public Gallery.

7.1 MS CECILIA BROOKE

The following was read out by Ms Cecilia Brooke of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

Ms Cecilia Brooke: City of South Perth Residents Association incorporated (COSPRA) wishes all elected members and City staff are very happy, healthy, and especially a safe 2022.

Mr Bradford, may I take this opportunity at Electors' General Meeting to welcome you to your first such meeting as CEO and thank you. We would support any ideas you have that would invigorate the City, your staff or how the City works with and connects with the community.

Residents expect clear connections to and with the City objectives. Which should result in better alignment of the City's programs with community needs.

We appreciate that you and Mayor Milner have been prepared to meet with us and other community groups in our city, when requests are made and we look forward to the continuation of this interaction.

Councillors, COSPRA has recognised that there is a wealth of experience on this Council. Presently, our elected members are all from highly professional areas and this expertise in various fields is appreciated. We have engineers, lawyers, accountants, educators, and health professionals. This diversity is rich and important and we hope that you listen to each other and learn from each other. Especially to those who have skills and knowledge in a particular field or are versed in a certain line of questioning. By doing that we believe you will make the best decisions possible for the residents of this City and in general.

I have previously quoted in this chamber Abraham Lincoln and his Gettysburg speech. "Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from this earth."

We note that in the outcomes and strategies of the Strategic Community Plan wording under culture and community that read 'celebrate, support and value heritage and culture within the City for present and future generations.' It now reads 'celebrate and support culture within the City for present and future generations'. There is no mention of the word value.

With this in mind, we were naturally delighted at the Ordinary Council Meeting in December last year when Council voted unanimously to keep the existing category B heritage listing for St Martin in the Field Church Kensington and not downgrade it to category C which the City called for or category D which the developer called for.

Mr Mayor, Councillors and City officers the very heart and soul of this City lies within its heritage. From beautiful old cottages in Kensington to the lovely houses in the Arlington precinct and others scattered throughout the City, even the house along Labouchere Road where Mr Mendis lived are all part of our history.

Let us hope that we can preserve the significant number of these sites for future generations, to experience the sense of place, to connect the past to the present while looking forward to the future.

We should ensure that where the City has the power to do so, measures should be put in place to preserve our history before it is lost.

COSPRA and many residents continue to have serious doubts about the RAF project, its cost estimate, its business case, its lack of success with third party funding and we still fail to understand the compelling community need for the facility.

We are also concerned at the stalling of and delays of many other projects around the City. Redmond Stairs, Welwyn laneway, Challenger Masterplan to name a few. We wonder why these delays are occurring, we hope that funding is not the issue.

Councillors need we remind you, at last year's Electors' meeting we gave high praise to the City. Acknowledging how well the City is being managed. This year we have some concerns over several key areas and issues that need to be addressed. Namely the management of the city's financial reserves, the preservation of the many buildings of significance that need heritage protection and unsurprisingly the RAF which is proving to be a real risk to the City's finances.

Councillors stand up for us, your job is to represent the ratepayers and oversee allocations of resources in the City. That is, how our rates are being spent. Be brave and say words that need to be said and we will provide you with the feedback and as much support as we can.

We wish you all a very very successful coming year.

Thank you.

Mayor Milner:

Thank you very much Ms Brooke.

Is there anyone else who has any questions or would like to make a statement this evening?

7.2 MR ZANE RICHTER

The following statement and questions were read out by Mr Zane Richter of Manning at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

- Mr Zane Richter:** I just want to reflect on the wonderful result that the Council had moved for St Martin in the Field.
- On Tuesday the 14th of December Council acknowledged viewpoints put forward by the Friends of St Martin in the Field and voted to retain the heritage category listing of 50 Dyson Street, retaining it on the local history inventory, recognising the social, historical, and cultural significance of the buildings to the Kensington and South Perth communities.
- So, the site is currently for sale and I would like to know what role the City of South Perth played to ensure any new owner is made aware of the heritage significance of the site?
- Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS):** The City plays a role when we are asked to give out information about the sites. So obviously we would be advising prospective purchasers of the heritage listing along with other information that we give out such as rates and so forth. So, it is a combined package of information that we give out for prospective purchasers.
- Mr Zane Richter:** Are City of South Perth councillors working to define concessions and acceptable variations to the planning requirements which can still achieve a development outcome of the site while enhancing the existing heritage fabric in a cohesive and well considered development outcome?
- Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS):** At this point in time the City is not working on any particular proposals for the site. Coming from inside the City, we would be awaiting any future proposals that come from any future purchaser.
- Mr Zane Richter:** Town of Victoria Park has developed a place plan where residential suburbs, key community assets and urban commercial streets are combined. A copy of the use of Victoria Park plan is attached here. Place plans are an important step for translating strategic plans into operational plans. Place plans in Victoria Park explicitly identify heritage assets including LHI listed places. The City of South Perth intramaps show heritage places but not properties listed on the heritage inventory which also have significant local interest.
- Will the City of South Perth initiate a Place plan initiative like Victoria Park to assist with the translation of high-level plans into Place Plans that respect heritage environments and community aspirations for places?
- Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS):** As you probably know we are in the process of developing a new local town planning scheme, number 7. Part of that process once it is developed will be putting in place precinct plans, which are not exactly the same as place plans but certainly take a look at things at the local precinct level and will take into consideration such things as particular heritage areas or areas with significance, more of a character significance than heritage.
- Mayor Milner:** Thank you very much Mr Richter.

Is there anyone else that would like to ask a question?

7.3 MR JOHN MILES

The following statement was read out by Mr John Miles of Waterford at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

Mr John Miles

Thank you Mr Mayor, my name is John Miles and I have lived in Waterford for 30 years. My background is in the field of education where I have been a principal and a teacher for 46 years, now retired.

I am currently working for Curtin University in the field of education in my retirement. Apart from my passion for educating children, I also have another passion and that is teaching children to swim.

I was employed by the Education Department in a vacation swimming program where I devoted over 50 years of my life ensuring that children were safe around water and were taught within the guidelines and requirements of the department. I was seconded to a head vacation swimming program for a period of time, however I spent most of my years as a vac swim regional advisor.

I have visited many pools throughout Perth and the regional areas to ensure that children in WA have the opportunity to learn to swim and survive. I feel that is the most important issue with having a pool. These lessons were predominantly conducted in aquatic centres provided by local councils for the people in their community. Sadly, the City of South Perth is not one of those councils. I have not known South Perth council to have a pool at all in the duration of time that I have lived here.

The Recreation Aquatic Facility is much needed and a necessary addition to our community.

As leaders in our society, we have a responsibility to our children. An aquatic centre is an integral part of the community. The most significant community asset in a country town is a public pool as it provides the opportunity for positive engagement for children and in fact builds connections between people of all ages.

It saddens me to see children in our community being bussed to different aquatic centres in other areas to use facilities provided by other councils. Children have the right to have an education and that includes learning to swim in their own community.

During the in term two-week swimming program up to 10 hours of learning time can be lost due to transporting children. That is totally unacceptable. This does not happen to children who have an aquatic facility in their own community. Therefore, our children, the children of the City of South Perth are clearly disadvantaged,

A learning to swim process begins with newborns. The new parents in our community will have the opportunity to socialise and connect with other new parents and this is crucial for their mental health and wellbeing. Families will be able to attend swimming lessons and enjoy the facilities at the same time.

Unfortunately it has been my experience in the regional adviser role, to witness parents sitting beside the pool trying to control siblings who are not currently engaged in lessons. This is a wasted opportunity for families. If the lessons were conducted in an aquatic centre and not a pool in a private school, the parents would be able to swim and engage with the children therefore having important family time rather than sitting on the side disengaged.

The RAF will also play a significant role in providing opportunities for the disabled in our society to engage in health activities in their own community. For the many children and adults with disabilities, swimming is a necessary part of their therapy. This is an area close to my heart as I have an eight-year-old grandson non-verbal autistic. He loves the water, as children with autism often do. He enjoys kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding but his great love is swimming. It provides hours of calmness which in turn provides relief for his family.

The RAF will provide the opportunity for year-round access for children to enjoy the water. The health and fitness opportunities should not just be available in summer, health is an ongoing concern. Swimming is the greatest leveller for all children, they are all able to enjoy it together and have fun.

As the City of South Perth heads towards a community of high rise living and smaller size blocks for housing, the need for the aquatic facility will increase. We need to look towards the future and address the needs of our residents and to keep people of all ages and abilities both physically and mentally healthy.

In my own view, I feel that the City of South Perth is seen to be behind the times and needs to be proactive in providing the essential facilities that will benefit the local community. Thank you.

Mayor Milner:

Thank you Mr Miles.

Is there anyone else that would like to ask any questions or make a statement?

7.4 MR ROGER ATKINSON

The following questions were read out by Mr Roger Atkinson of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

- Mr Roger Atkinson:** My question is also about the Recreation and Aquatic Facility, but it is simply a brief question.
- Have you had any indication from the State Government that they will put up \$20m that you have asked them for?
- Should the State Government decide that it would rather put that sort of money into a pool at say the WACA ground or into the Perth Zoo, does the City of South Perth have a plan B for a much smaller facility, rather than a grand enormous state of the art kind of thing?
- Can you look at a plan or have you looked at a plan B which is basically a much down sized, something that could be attached to the existing George Burnett Leisure Centre and meet the community needs that were referred to by the previous speaker?
- Mr Mike Bradford (CEO):** The Council has approved and endorsed a RAF project based on a \$80m project scope and over the last four years has worked on refining the needs and definition of that scope, making the decisions on the location and decisions on the funding of that.
- The current funding status is that there is \$43m committed from the Federal Government, the City and Curtin University.
- We submitted the request for funding to the State Government at the end of October last year. We have briefed the then Minister for Sport on that submission and have answered a number of questions from his office on that submission. In late December the Minister for Sport changed and we are currently engaged in establishing a briefing for him and meeting with him hopefully later in the next month.
- In terms of the current proposal, the City in accordance with the Council resolution is pursuing the full scope of the project to \$80m on the basis that we will achieve the funding for that project.
- Mayor Milner:** Thank you Mr Bradford and thank you for your question, Mr Atkinson.

7.5 MS JENNY BRITTAIN

The following statement and questions were read out by Ms Jenny Britain of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

Ms Jenny Brittain: Under the Heritage Act the City's local heritage inventory is to be comprehensively reviewed every four years. It was adopted in 2018 and it is due for review. Any person, property owner, relevant interest group, City officers or council members may nominate a place for Council's consideration. When will the Council be reviewing the inventory?

Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS): Thank you for the question. At the moment the City has a number of large strategic projects on its plate. The most important being the one I referred to earlier, the new town planning scheme. Once we have some traction with that, then we will be looking at that project as well.

Ms Jenny Brittain: It is a great opportunity to bring it in under the scheme, in alignment with the scheme. I think it is really important, mentioned previously about the maps, because heritage places lists are on the maps but not on the local heritage inventory. A lot of Councils may not necessarily do it, but in the mapping systems we have these days it would be fantastic to show that. It sets it at a certain place at a certain point in time visually, which is really important and often overlooked.

The heritage significance of Durbridge Hall and St Martin in the Field Church was recently tested by proposed reclassification to category D and subsequent demolition. It was really pleasing when the Council supported the listing, because it is in keeping with the Council's Policy 313 which is the local heritage listing, in that its maintained a worthy example of one of the City's local heritage places.

Policy P313 was last reviewed in 2015 and I would also just like to ask when will this policy be reviewed and why is Policy P314 Heritage List referred to when it does not exist?

Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS): The policy was put in place in anticipation of the other part of that document suite being prepared but then Town Planning Scheme 7 has overtaken that and again that is something that will be reviewed quite shortly actually, with the policy review for the new Town Planning Scheme.

Ms Jenny Brittain: Great, that sounds good. These are all sort of heritage related questions, I did not want to make it too long. Many Councils have heritage assistant funds or incentives, additional to what South Perth offers to encourage the retention of heritage places. Reference is made to heritage incentives and bonuses for places on the heritage list under that policy.

Local cultural heritage, and I think it is really well referenced is called a 'non-renewable resource' under that policy. I think it is really timely for the City to rethink incentives as part of that policy for the local heritage inventory and not just on the heritage list. Heritage listed properties, particularly ones under a state listing can often apply for funding and unfortunately, the places that are probably of lesser significance in a state view, may then suffer as a result.

If there are not some reasonable incentives for properties listed under that inventory, is the only benefit they gain from being on the list is that they are less likely to be demolished? I mean to me it is a sense of why have a list, in a sense.

South Perth offers some incentives such as a refund of planning fees related to the heritage listings but for example would Council be aware of how many people or applicants have even requested this in the past 10 years, because I could not even find a form. So, I think it is due for a review in terms of looking at that list and also the policy and what we offer to people to try help protect these places.

Thank you.

Mayor Milner:

Thank you very much, is there anyone else?

Councillor Ken Manolas left the Chamber at 6.52pm and returned at 6.55pm.

7.6 MS BRONWYN DAVID

The following questions and statement were read out by Ms Bronwyn David of South Perth at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

Ms Bronwyn David: Good evening, Mayor, Councillors and administration staff. Thank you for this opportunity. I figured I would come after the previous speaker because it is more about heritage.

I note that the Council at the December meeting changed the wording in the Strategic Community Plan and took out the word heritage under the heading culture and community. To what extent is the Council's commitment to heritage reflected in this rewording?

Mayor Milner: I am not sure who, if any I am happy to throw this question to because it is a collective decision of Council and Council of course made that decision in December.

Ms Tucker, how does one go about answering a question like this unless I am going to purport to speak for the reasoning behind all of the Councillors here?

Ms Bernadine Tucker (MG): As you said Mr Mayor it is quite extensive in relation to responding to the question. I am not sure if some other members of the Directorate might be able to answer some of those parts.

Mayor Milner: I can offer my thoughts if it is accepted as that and not necessarily what was in the heads of the other eight elected members.

Heritage forms part of the other elements in that same strategic pillar. So at least from my point of view and I am speaking only for myself, it is covered there, we have simply simplified the language.

Ms Bronwyn David: Thank you. My next question is about the community response to the possible downgrading of the heritage listing at 50 Dyson Street. The community response revealed a wealth of information about the buildings of the site, some of which was unknown to even the heritage architects engaged to assess the site.

It would be beneficial if this information could be captured and made accessible to the community so that in the future people who might be curious about why the buildings are there, would be able to find out more. The wealth of information lends itself to a more fulsome record than just a plaque on a wall. Such as a digital commemoration which would allow a great deal of information to be recorded and saved for posterity, such as photos of the building over time, photos of the interior, biographical information about the people involved in the building. Even home movies that might have been taken in the building which could be shared with the permission of the authors of those movies. You could perhaps even mention the members of the Friends of St Martin in the Field group who worked so hard to preserve the heritage of the site.

Does the Council consider that this would be ideally commemorated with a digital record accessible by way of a QR code or similar that could be engraved somewhere on or near the site and can resources be put towards this project?

Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS): The information that has been provided can be included in the heritage inventory record. We also have a very active local history officer who we can discuss that sort of idea with in terms of how to best keep that memory alive, I guess. So, I would be happy to take that information in and we will talk to our local history area about it.

Ms Bronwyn David: Thank you, including the idea of it being linked back to the site so that people who are curious can just scan their phone and be taken to the site?

Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS): Yes.

Ms Bronwyn David: Thank you very much.

Now finally, strap in this is a long one I even brought props.

To quote Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize:

“the generation that destroys the environment, is not the generation who pays the price”

The City of South Perth is lucky that it is an established suburb with many established trees. This is no doubt one of the elements that attracts people to the area.

Perth has just had its hottest January on record.

It is an established scientific fact that shaded trees assist to keep areas cool and that even shaded roads need less maintenance. Cooler environments means less use of power to cool homes and buildings which means there is less energy consumed resulting in environmental savings.

Trees also provide habitats for birds and native animals and finally but crucially oxygen.

Yet landowners are allowed to clear felled blocks that are subject to redevelopment, and I offer this up, by way of evidence.

This is not a great photo, because it is taken from google street view but it is of a block of land in Karoo Street South Perth where once upon a time as you can see at the top, it was a heavily treed block. The property was sold last year and the photograph at the bottom is what is there now. It is nothing but sand.

So, developers are apparently happy to build in a shady green suburb but feel no obligation to contribute to that green cover.

Before I am told that the power to preserve trees lies with another level of government. I note that the Nedlands Council seems willing to enact requirements for the preservation of trees on blocks under development and in fact in most other Australian cities tree preservation laws exist at the local council level and no one is rising in the streets as a result.

People in those areas understand that they are the custodians of the trees on their blocks and not the owners. And before you tell me again that the Council has a mechanism for landowners to protect trees on their own land, could we just take a moment to consider how self-interested capitalism has done such a grand job of preserving the environment... or not.

You must consider whether you are happy for your grandchildren to live in an increasingly hot treeless city as urban renewal of this sort of thing takes place or does the Council consider that the preservation of or replanting of like for like trees. I.e. you take out a 20m tree, you put one back on private land is a priority and if so, what are you going to do about it?

Mayor Milner:

Thank you very much for your question. I know that we have the urban forest strategy here in the City of South Perth and we have the ability for people to register significant trees and also the ongoing expansion of the underground power program works across the community allows for increased tree cover, which I think is a very good thing for a beautiful environment.

But on the question of specific trees existing on privately owned blocks Ms Lummer can I throw that question to you?

Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS):

Yes, it is a huge problem and everyone grapples with it. The state has put in place some requirements in the past few years in the residential design codes to try and firstly to get new trees so there is areas on blocks that have to have deep soil, so that trees can be planted and thrive.

The new medium density codes which the department is still working on, and we have seen a draft that came out for advertising last year sometime but that is still being worked on. That had requirements for incentives to keep trees on site, keep existing trees and also to plant new ones. It is something we grapple with. We don't have control when developers decide to clear a block and we struggle with that, as does every other local government. I don't know if I want to throw Mr Taylor because we struggle on private sites, how we make up for that on our own property.

Mr Mark Taylor (DIS):

Thank you Mr Mayor and Ms Lummer.

Being Infrastructure Director here and coming from an environment background, I am very passionate about trees. However, trees and density don't mix.

The City of South Perth has gone through a number of phases in its history of densifying suburbs at the cost of trees. You can look through Como and you can see the results of that. We are seeing it now in the area around Neil McDougall Park, with the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan. So, the City has got this wicked problem on complying with State Government policy on densifying an inner-city suburb and then dealing with the outcomes of trees.

Our focus as a result is primarily on growing and planting trees in public land. That is why we are passionate supporters of underground power as the Mayor rightly said.

For us the answers are in things like underground power and planting as many trees in public land as we can.

Our urban forest strategy demonstrated that we are only just keeping up with the loss of trees on private land by what we are planting on public land. However, if you drive around the City you will still see lots of spaces where trees can be planted. This is areas we have control over as a city. We have policies and laws in place that if people cut or damage a public tree, we can do something about it.

We have a significant tree register, however it is always problematic on private land because ultimately if you conflict with a zoning, and invariably this is what happens, you get the beautiful blocks near Neil McDougall Park who have trees in their backyard, but they are able to build apartments which take up the whole lot.

On the smaller blocks people are building on my street, I live in the City, they are building houses that are take up the whole lot because we are living on 350sqm. It is just a problem that is difficult.

I understand the difficulties the planners have however I think our effort and focus is on planting trees on public land where have control. Thank you.

Ms Bronwyn David:

I wonder whether the Council could just take a softly softly approach and talk in its publications about trees and the need for them and how they can reduce power costs by offering cooling. Just talk it up and you know and eventually we might get developers to allow room on blocks for trees because they are a necessity.

Mr Mark Taylor (DIS):

I completely agree, we can always do more in educating our community. I think the moves that are coming through state planning that Ms Lummer talked about are really promising from my perspective. So there is a number of tools we have got up our sleeve. Being draconian with residents doesn't always work. I think people do really get upset about infringements on property rights and rather than policing it, we would rather promote and educate people. There is no comparison to a shady tree on your block, compared to hot tarmac.

So we are seeing more of it, there is a lot more information coming out about climate change, a lot more information about urban heat island and a lot of information coming in now. We are getting aerial flights over our city where we can actually measure our canopies. In the near future we are putting a lot more information out about tracking how we are going, so that we can demonstrate to our community that we are losing our tree cover. Because the idea of South Perth being a leafy suburb is changing and it is death by 1000 cuts. You are not necessarily seeing it happening, it just slowly creeps up on you and next thing you know you go past and go 'gee I thought that was a block full of trees there and now it is gone'.

I am not really helping your question but I suppose what we are trying to say is that this is not an easy problem to solve.

Mayor Milner:

One other thing that I would add before I throw to this gentleman here. I seem to recall that we put out some media. I think it was last year, we were able to take overhead pictures of our forest canopy cover. Mr Taylor might be able to correct me if I am wrong, but I think we have held steady for 20 or is it 30 years because of the City's efforts in planting trees on public areas?

Mr Mark Taylor (DIS):

Thank you Mr Mayor, it appears that we have, we are getting more sophisticated now in the way that we are undertaking the aerial overflights. So we have got a new set of data that I think we have just ordered, we will know a bit more when that comes out.

That is my understanding, I think we stated that in the urban forest strategy.

Mayor Milner:

I guess I raised that by simply saying we are aware of the point you are making, and we are taking efforts accordingly

7.7 DR PAUL DE TORES

The following statement, questions and motions were put forward by Dr Paul de Tores of Manning at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

- Dr Paul de Tores:** I have two comments to make that relate to the previous question if I may.
- I think in New South Wales there is legislation that prevents anyone from felling a tree over a given height regardless of whether that tree is in a domestic environment or urban or rural. It is something that perhaps the City of South Perth could look into. But that was not the issue I came to raise.
- I have two questions, the second is a two-part question. The first question is.
- There is considerable dispute as to the legitimacy of the two-year extension to the SouthCare development application which has a joint development assessment panel or JDAP determination date of 4 April 2018.
- Irrespective of the legitimacy of this extension. The determination listed at least 11 conditions which were required to be met before the City of South Perth could issue a building permit.
- Condition one of that determination required the developer Southcare to amalgamate the multitude of disparate titles covered by the development. The JDAP deemed this of sufficient importance to also list advice note 11, as part of the determination which required Southcare to, I quote "commence this amalgamation process without delay and to avoid a delay in obtaining a building permit."
- Now, nearly four years after the JDAP determination Landgate has confirmed, I have this in writing from Landgate. This amalgamation has not occurred and there are still the original five different titles for the land in question.
- So, can the CEO Mr Mike Bradford or the head of planning department explain why a building permit has been issued despite this amalgamation or condition one not having occurred and additionally can the CEO also explain why a building permit has been issued when there at least nine additional conditions; condition 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15 and 17 and possibly a tenth, condition 20 which have not been met?
- Two additional advice notes i.e., an addition to advice note 11 that I have referred to, these are advice notes 3, 9 and possibly a third advice note 12 which have not been met. All of these are required to be met prior to issuing a building permit.
- Mayor Milner:** Thank you for the question, I might throw that one to Ms Lummer but I am conscious that she probably does not have that particular file in front of her.

- Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS):** Thank you Mr Mayor. I do have a little bit of knowledge from the JDAP meeting last week.
- You are correct that the amalgamation has not taken place and I don't have the details of which building permit has been issued but I do know that it could be a partial permit, it could be for forward works, it could just be for a portion of the development
- Dr Paul de Tores:** I can answer that for you if you like.
- Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS):** No, I am not asking, I am just saying what it could be and in that way, that is why it could have been issued without all of the things that you have mentioned just now.
- Dr Paul de Tores:** Alright well firstly, it is a building permit for stage one of the development. Stage one is a four-storey building with 50 something apartments. Irrespective of it being part of the total development, it is still a building permit and it has been issued contrary to those conditions and advice notes being met. Should I move on to the second question?
- Mayor Milner:** I am just conscious that this is a fairly technical discussion Dr de Tores and I do appreciate your concerns. I am just wondering if maybe it might be worth emailing those questions through and perhaps Ms Lummer would have an opportunity to take those on notice.
- Dr Paul de Tores:** I am happy to do that but I would also like to raise a motion that relates to that question and a second question which I haven't asked yet.
- Mayor Milner:** Go ahead.
- Dr Paul de Tores:** The second question is given the controversial and disputed nature of the previous extension to the date of which Southcare's development approval will lapse. Could the CEO or head of planning again please explain firstly, I understand it is normal procedure for the City of South Perth to advise residents when an amendment is submitted. The residents normally notified are those who have previously made a submission on the development application or had made a previous submission on an amendment application. So why is it that residents were not advised of Southcare's recent requested amendment to extend this date for a further two years, which would give it six years, especially when the previous extension was controversial?
- The second part of that question is, why did the City of South Perth not carry out a complete reassessment of the proposed amendment in accordance with its own guidelines which require the City to reconsider firstly, whether the planning framework has changed substantially since the development approval was granted. Secondly whether the development would likely receive approval now and thirdly whether the holder of the development approval has actively and relatively conscientiously pursued the implementation of the development approval. The second of these points, whether the development would likely receive approval now, seems particularly pertinent given the Presiding Member of the JDAP meeting and at least one other panel member at the meeting last week noted 'it was unclear whether the proposal would be approved if presented today.

Just to clarify that two-part question. The first is why weren't residents advised of the application for a further two-year extension to the date in which the development approval will lapse?

And secondly why was this application not completely reassessed?

Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS): The application didn't have community consultation because it was an application for exactly the same development that had already been approved. There were no changes to the plans. The only point of the application was an extension of time of that approval. So that is that reason.

The second part of your question I have to defer to the actual DAP meeting. Because all of these points were raised at the DAP meeting and answered. It is fully explained in the officer's report for the DAP as to why we didn't do a full assessment and what actually was assessed and how it met those criteria. I don't think I need to go into it now because all of that information is on the public record and you are aware of it.

Dr Paul de Tores: Well, I beg to differ. The issues were raised at the JDAP meeting.

Mayor Milner: Mr de Tores I do have to interject .

Dr Paul de Tores: Dr de Tores please, I don't call you Councillor.

Mayor Milner: Dr de Tores, my apologies. I do have to interject there. This isn't a forum for debate. You are entitled to make a public statement you are entitled to ask questions, but it is not a forum for back-and-forth debate with council officers.

Dr Paul de Tores: Well perhaps I could propose a motion.

Mayor Milner: Please do.

Dr Paul de Tores: I have two motions.

The first is that I would like to propose a motion that the current building permit is revoked.

Mayor Milner: You can propose that but I don't think we have the power to do that even if it is carried by the meeting, is that correct Ms Lummer?

Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS): I would have to take that on notice but I imagine you would need a good reason to revoke a building permit.

Dr Paul de Tores: I can clarify that if you like, you have the authority to put the motion to a vote of the electors.

Mayor Milner: By all means. I take it you would like to move that.

Dr Paul de Tores: I need a seconder, I would like to move to that motion

Mayor Milner: Is there a seconder for that motion and can you just repeat it one more time so that we can take it down for the record?

Dr Paul de Tores: That the current building permit is revoked.

Mayor Milner: Thank you, do we have a seconder for that?

Councillor D'Souza: Just a question Mr Mayor, could Dr de Tores specify the exact wording of the building permit and which DA it relates to?

Mayor Milner: That is probably a good point

- Dr Paul de Tores:** The building permit relates to stage one of the Southcare development.
- Mayor Milner:** Just while you are compiling your thoughts there Dr de Tores, Ms Lummer?
- Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS):** I just probably need to make everybody aware that planning approvals are under one legislation and building permits are approved under a completely different set of legislation. So if your reasons are that they haven't met the planning conditions, then that is a separate matter to the actual building permit. That would be a planning compliance issue, rather than anything to do with the building permit. I just wanted to make that clear.
- Dr Paul de Tores:** Thank you for doing that because I can clarify my thoughts on that one too and I will read you out verbatim what the planning approval is, what the JDAP decision was.
- Mayor Milner:** Dr de Tores.
- Dr Paul de Tores:** It is relevant to Ms Lummer's comment. It says condition one.
- Mayor Milner:** I am wondering if it might be best if you just move your motion, we will clarify with Ms Lummer whether the motion is in a form that is I guess as presentable to Council as it possibly can be.
- You will have an opportunity if you wish to make a deputation to that item when it appears on the Council agenda in March. I am just conscious that I need to be fair to everyone and we are doing things on the fly a tiny bit here.
- Dr Paul de Tores:** Alright, well I will make the motion very clear then. I move a motion that that the current building permit for stage one of the development site at lot number 19 Bickley Crescent, number 51 Bickley Crescent, number 51a Bickley Crescent and number 49 Lots 10, 12, 11 and 340 Pether Road Manning be revoked.
- Mayor Milner:** Ms Lummer is that something that is capable of being presented to Council in March?
- Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS):** Yes we can do that.
- Mayor Milner:** Is there a seconder for that motion?
Councillor Russell a question?
- Councillor Russell:** I don't believe there is a building permits for those lots.
- Dr Paul de Tores:** Alright correct, you are right. The building permit is for stage one of that development that I quoted but stage one applies to only lot 10 Pether Road Manning.
- Mayor Milner:** I think Dr de Tores is entitled to move whatever motion he wants, perhaps we will just proceed with the motion that he has already stated. Is that acceptable to you Dr de Tores?
- Dr Paul de Tores:** If it meets your requirements of a motion that can be voted on, then it is acceptable to me.
- Mayor Milner:** Ms Lummer?

Ms Vicki Lummer (DDCS): Yes I think anything can be voted on and we can provide clarification when it comes back to Council in March.

Mayor Milner: Thank you. with that is there a seconder for Dr de Tores motion?

Mayor Milner: So everyone has heard the motion, perhaps Dr de Tores if you could read it one more time and then I will call a vote on that motion.

DECISION

Moved: Dr Paul de Torres

Seconded: Mr Philip Ariti

That the current building permit for stage one of the development site at that list of blocks that covers Lot 10 be revoked.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

DECISION

Moved: Dr Paul de Torres

Seconded: Ms Leonie Kelly

A Motion of no confidence in the function of the planning department of the City of South Perth.

The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

7.8 MR TONY WHEELER

The following statement and questions were read out by Mr Tony Wheeler of Waterford at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

Mr Tony Wheeler: I have spoken twice before in support of the RAF and I am not going to take everyone through the reasons for doing it again other than to remind the Council that you have an obligation to make the City as good as it can be within the means of the Council and look after all the residents and not just golfers. Thank you.

I have got three short questions. I have read all the documentation that you have made available on the website and I note that the Federal funding, the \$20m is due to expire, I believe in March 2022, next month. Assuming that is correct, if my memory serves me correctly. Do you have a plan to apply for an extension?

Mike Bradford (CEO): The Federal Funding Agreement that was struck with the Commonwealth, it doesn't expire in March. It does have a series of milestones against which the City has to track progress and they are tied to the payments. The first milestone which was achieved last year, resulted in funding being provided by the Commonwealth and that is what sits in the community reserve that was discussed earlier.

The next milestone has a number of conditions to be satisfied and that will then trigger a subsequent payment to be paid. We are on track to achieve those milestones and continue with the Commonwealth Funding Agreement.

Mr Tony Wheeler: My second question is that I note you went to tender late last year to appoint a project manager but there appears to have been a delay in engaging that project manager. Could you please explain the reason for the delay?

Mark Taylor (DIS): Mr Wheeler there was a report presented to Council at the December meeting and Council did not determine to proceed or not to proceed with a project manager. It is subject of a briefing with Council tonight and it will be the subject of a report to Council hopefully at the February meeting.

Mr Tony Wheeler: Is the RAF proceeding dependent on the \$20m State Government funding? And there is a second part to that question.

Mike Bradford (CEO): Council has endorsed the City to pursue an \$80m project and that the funding target for that consists of \$20m from the Commonwealth which has been received, \$20m commitment from the City, which the City has agreed to, \$20m made up from a series of third-party providers, some of which has been secured and the fourth quarter is targeted at \$20m from the State. We have not considered any other alternative plan other than the \$80m project.

Mayor Milner: Thank you. I understand you are doing a second part to that question?

Mr Tony Wheeler: It was answered already. Thank you.

7.9 MR PETER SCOTT

The following questions was read out by Mr Peter Scott of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

- Mr Peter Scott:** My question relates to the \$20m that has been committed, I guess is the word by the Council. When I was looking at the reserves and asking the question about where the extra came from, it became apparent that it was the funding from the Commonwealth Government.
- My question is where is the \$20m that the Council has committed, where is that coming from?
- Mike Bradford (CEO):** The \$20m that the Council has committed, the source of that funding will need to be determined when the Council commits to the project in total.
- Mr Peter Scott:** So it is not budgeted at this stage?
- Mike Bradford (CEO):** It is not budgeted no.
- Mayor Milner:** Thank you. Anyone else?

7.10 MS RACHAEL CURTIS

The following statement was read out by Ms Rachael Curtis of Como at the Electors' General Meeting held 8 February 2022.

Ms Rachael Curtis:

Good evening, Mayor Milner, Councillors and Officers.

I live in Como, and I also own a property in Kensington. I have grown up in the City of South Perth all of my life. I have two primary school aged children who attend a local school. I am a teacher at a local school as well and I have also taught at two other schools in the City of South Perth over the past 20 years. So I feel I have more than a vested interest in the much-needed RAF centre going ahead from the perspective of both parent and educator.

Many of the discussions that I have with other families from South Perth, frequently revolve around the sparse facilities for the young people in our community. For example, many children at school including my daughters are required to use a rec centre provided by the ratepayers of the Town of Victoria Park for afterschool netball games.

Schools from all over the City of South Perth meet at the facility in Victoria Park rather than a facility in their own community. A facility that really should be provided by their own Council.

Swimming is also plays a really large part in our family's life. My daughters have a passion for Swimming and enter state competitions. Unfortunately, the only pool that we can access in the City of South Perth, is a single pool which is an outdoor only facility at Wesley. Swimming in an outdoor pool during winter is not a particularly joyful experience for the swimmer or even the parent for that matter. This pool is also absolutely full to capacity. This summer we were forced to go to the City of Cambridge to do vacation swimming as Wesley was absolutely at capacity.

The needs of the community I feel have well and truly outgrown what the Wesley pool can provide. For example, the seating for spectators is limited, shade is also limited, toilets are small and in need of upgrading and not to mention there are only two lanes available for swimming or walking for the public. This is clearly inadequate. Siblings are forced to sit and watch, rather than be in the pool exercising and enjoying themselves with other children in the community.

To have a celebration at a pool, local families are required to leave their community and use one of the two aquatic centres provided by the City of Canning or even the City of Cambridge. Once again it is a disappointing lack of amenity for our City of South Perth families when they are forced to celebrate outside of their own communities. I feel this also impacts on our local business.

From an educational point of view, I feel that the children at our local schools are in an unfavourable position with regards to swimming for several reasons. The travel time that is required to bus children to pools out of their area is a huge loss of valuable teaching time. The fact that a pool is not within the local area, means even things like squad training become virtually impossible.

The journey of distance means necessary opportunity for our children to build up their swimming skills, their stamina and to practice in teams is denied to our children in the City of South Perth.

Another great loss is the opportunity for our children and our families to connect and to be part of a community which is something I believe as teachers, parents and community leaders we should all be encouraging. It is vital for our children, our community and our future and one obvious strategy to keep children out of harm's way, is to keep them positively engaged in sport. A sport that creates a healthy body and a healthy mind. With all the huge anxiety that is looming in our society, particularly for our children, the City of South Perth has a moral obligation I feel, and importantly also has a huge opportunity to engage young children, in particular our teenagers in a positive and productive way.

So please I ask you to think of everyone in our community. An aquatic facility is there for mums with newborns, for toddlers to gain water confidence, for those recovering from illness and rehabilitation and for children who deserve the basic right to learn to swim. And for the elderly to participate in low impact activities. And for the disabled who may not be able to swing a club but can enjoy all the benefits the water has to offer, including the opportunity to join in with the rest of society.

So yes, I think our South Perth community deserves and desperately needs to have this facility for all the inclusive benefits that it will bring to everyone. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Mayor Milner:

Thank you very much for your statement, is there anyone else who wishes to ask a question or make a statement tonight?

8. CLOSURE

The Presiding Member thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.31pm.