

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

17 AUGUST 2021

COUNCIL

MEETING

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Item 10.1

Draft Bayside Urban Forest Strategy

1. Ms Heather Knowles

As part of Bayside Council's "have your say" program, I want to express my support for the DRAFT BAYSIDE URBAN FOREST STRATEGY and encourage Council to endorse the Draft and commence community engagement. I look forward to the opportunity to participate in the community engagement process. The draft is an excellent start with a solid strategy, I look forward to the opportunity to comment on preparing a vital, robust and very effective plan that will support and protect a healthy, diverse and comprehensive urban forest for the benefit of all inhabitants of Bayside and Melbourne. Thank you, Heather Knowles

2. Mr George Leighfield

Congratulations to the council for producing such a detailed report on how to increase our vegetation cover. I think the hardest part is to address the strategies regarding private land which may be thwarted by VCAT, State and Federal Laws such as those to do with insurance. I recently saw a letter in the UK Guardian which mentions the threat to established trees from insurance companies when they cause problems to infrastructure, see <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/11/city-trees-are-as-under-threat-as-our-forests>

Also I note that on page 7 of the report "The urban forest is encompasses all the trees and other vegetation....". I am concerned at the increasing number of synthetic lawns and nature strips in Bayside. As these are replacing vegetation I think discouraging or banning of these should be mentioned in the report. I would hope the council has the right to ban this on nature strips as they are council property. As well, I recently noticed for the first time a wall on a house that had a synthetic climber. The report mentions encouraging green walls on page 24. Perhaps it could add discouraging or banning synthetic green walls as they have minimal benefit and the more of these that people see the more they will replace their natural climbers with artificial ones. For more information on synthetic grass etc see <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2019/aug/02/turf-it-out-is-it-time-to-say-goodbye-to-artificial-grass>.

3. Ms Caroline Lawton

Good evening Mayor and Councilors

BCS have perused the Urban Forest Strategy and have the following questions and points for discussion tonight.

Before we start, we would like to thank BCC for the continued support and commitment to undertake the Urban Forest Strategy. As we would all agree we must educate and create a greener and more sustainable environment for the future generation's survival.

1. By setting a target tree canopy increase by 9% from 16% to 25% by 2030 does Council intend each Bayside suburb will increase their canopy by at least 9% so that suburbs like Beaumaris currently with a tree canopy above 16% will achieve a tree canopy higher than 25% by 2030?

This 25% tree coverage is still a very low target, City of Melbourne's target is to double their 24% coverage in 10 years.

2. Is the current 16% tree canopy across Bayside inclusive of Councils Parks and Gardens, Schools, Golf Courses, Cemeteries and Government owned land eg Vic Track and Vic Roads land. These areas are all areas that BCC should partner with to increase tree canopy.

If this percentage does include the above, I would like BCC to provide us with the figures of coverage on private land.

3. We must stress that as the Urban Forest is part of Bayside Council's response to the climate crisis it should cover all Bayside. The urban heat island effect needs to be reduced on a wide scale - beyond Bayside, not just in small pockets. However, it is worrying to read that the currently allocated funds are inadequate. When will the funds be increased to cover all Bayside? How long do we have to wait?
4. Please explain in further detail the Precinct based Urban Forest plans and do these plans include an ecology target and measurement
5. We must stress that as the Urban Forest is part of Bayside Council's response to the climate crisis it should cover all Bayside. The urban heat island effect needs to be reduced on a wide scale - beyond Bayside, not just in small pockets. However, it is worrying to read that the currently allocated funds are inadequate. When will the funds be increased to cover all of Bayside? How long do we have to wait?

What is the plan to implement the strategy, is it suburb by suburb so that the result can be quantified? If BCC was just to implement the UFS in stages and focus Beaumaris firstly, it would more than likely be a better executed plan that could be implemented, monitored and within budget. It could be the test case for the other Bayside suburbs. As we are all aware development and over development of housing sites for personal profit is the contributing factor to our loss of Canopy trees.

6. If we could send out the message loud and clear to new homeowners and developers that they have purchased within the Councils Urban Forest Precinct that is controlled by an amended vegetation control.
7. We need to use this strategy to strengthen the current VPO and SLO at a State level, as both these overlays are not effective in their current form, developers and new home builders are continuing to ignore these overlays.
8. The State Government Fast track system needs to be addressed, a very large percentage of our Canopy trees are being lost to this process, this is a huge loophole in protecting our Canopy trees and not aligning with BCC's strategy to increase tree coverage. Just in 2020 there were 112 requests for tree removal in a VPO3 and 69 were approved. We find this figure to be underquoted as we have been keeping records where we can and know of just a few sites where 30 or more trees would have been removed from and that is just in Beaumaris!
9. Within the UFS BCC needs to address the lack of usable space around development to plant canopy trees, squashing them in between the building footprint and the side boundary is not sufficient.

Just because the "Canopy Tree" is specified on a landscaping plan to "tick off" the requirement of planting them, does not mean they will ever end up as Canopy tree. This is a huge oversight, and really just a formality for planning to approve that in real life means nothing.

Property owners will request their removal later as they are too big to be sustainable in such a small space. So, it is a waste of the trees precious growing time. BCC needs to ensure these trees are planted in areas where there is enough space. If there is not enough space the development is not right for the sites size.

Underground basements also contribute significantly to this and do not allow canopy trees to be planted in the shallow soil above them. They also erode the ecology of the suburb by removing microbes/insects and moonscape the entire site.

10. BCC planners need to adhere to local laws and vegetation overlays when approving applications to remove native vegetation.
11. BCC needs to include exotic Canopy Trees in the Urban Forest Strategy to assist them to achieve their 25% canopy tree coverage.
12. COO should not be issued until the BCC planting schedule has been inspected and signed off, this could also form part to the strengthened local laws within the UFS. Urban Forest Precinct signage to be erected in UF streets, Blackburn has these signs in their streets.
13. "The primary methods to engage with the community will be through the Have Your Say Bayside project page, social media, face to face sessions (subject to restrictions) and the Let's Talk Bayside newsletter. Following the finalization of community engagement, Council will be presented with the findings of the engagement, alongside the final Urban Forest Strategy for consideration, expected to occur in late 2021"

We feel the above communication channels which are to be utilized for engagement of the Project are geared towards those who are social media savvy. BCC is ignoring many of our older generation who are the residents that own the properties with the last canopy trees present on them. Many of these Bayside Pioneers are not even on FB or know about “Have your say Bayside”.

14. “Built Environment Housing Growth and construction activity on private property is continuing to impact the tree population on private property. The draft Urban Forest Strategy seeks to implement measures to reduce this impact and improve the retention of trees on private property” **What are these measures please?**

15. A key action set through the Climate Emergency Action Plan is the implementation and delivery of the Urban Forest Strategy by **2025**.

We won't have any private resident canopy trees left by 2025 at the rate they are being removed.

It is confusing that the wording above says the implementation and delivery of the Urban Forest Strategy by 2025. What is the implementation date of the UFS?

16. We find it distressing that BCC has stated it is difficult to approximate the number of trees removed from private land each year under a planning permit as this is not separately recorded and one application and can have multiple tree removals. Let alone the extent of tree removal that is legal or illegal. Impacts on the health of Council owned trees due to construction activity from nearby or adjacent property development sites are also contributors to tree loss in Bayside.

Why is this? Can BCC please explain to us the strategies they have in place to remedy this huge oversight?

4. Ms Jo Pritchard (on behalf of Beaumaris Modern)

Dear Bayside Councillors,

On behalf of our 250 financial members, and 470 subscribers, we write as a Bayside community organisation with our wholehearted support of the Bayside Urban Forest Strategy. This important strategy is a vital policy pillar following on from the declaration of a climate emergency. The recent IPCC Climate Report demonstrates how critical these local policies are in addressing this immense crisis.

The loss of tree canopy across Bayside, as noted in your report, is even more significant when one considers the date range measured – just 4 years (2014-2018). As significant a loss of canopy as was measured, one must also recognise that at least a similar decline has occurred in previous years – for instance this study probably doesn't include the very significant loss of canopy trees removed from the former Beaumaris RSL and Beaumaris Secondary College sites in preceding years – a nett loss of well over 100 established canopy trees!

We support the objectives and the target outlined in the strategy report. However, to achieve a 25% tree canopy coverage across Bayside by 2030, BCC will need a very significant set of changes across multiple policy areas, as well as a communication strategy that brings the community with it.

We note the executive summary of the report states: *“To grow an urban forest, we must not only plant new trees, but also continue to monitor and retain existing trees to allow for improved survival rates and lifespan.”*

Community groups and individuals who object to planning applications are increasingly frustrated with the ease of which applicants and Council's arborists can successfully argue for tree removal based on their tree assessments. In these assessments, the term “arboricultural value” is the oft-quoted assessment catchphrase used by professional arborists. However, “arboriculture value” describes the aesthetic landscaping value of the plant in the context of a new development, rather than the viability of the plant, or its holistic value considering canopy coverage, amenity, or habitat value. Hence, “arboricultural value”, along with a checklist approach to landscaping / replanting plans, is used to justify the complete clearing (also called moonscaping) of blocks for redevelopment.

Therefore, we call on Council to consider as part of its strategy, a focus upon recalibrating their planning approach to ensure far less of our existing canopy on private land is reduced through the planning scheme. If the language and assessment methodology of the Council arborists is modified, and the planners push-back on applicants' arborists methodology, then we may have some hope in reducing unnecessary loss. It may also result in an increase in more thoughtful residential design which considers individual existing trees holistic value. If this cultural change was enacted through the planning process, we would see the objectives of the VPO3 and local laws having more practical effect in planning decisions.

We acknowledge there are many other aspects of the report that require further thought and policy aspiration to achieve the target of the strategy. Not least being the need for greater community engagement through pro-active communications, funding of a mix of programs and support to vulnerable residents.

We look forward to Council's adoption of this strategy.

Yours faithfully,

The Beaumaris Modern Inc. committee

5. Ms Annie Price, Mr Jamie Paterson, and Miss Dottie Paterson

Dear Councillors

We write in full support of the Bayside Urban Forest Strategy. This important undertaking is a vital policy pillar following on from BCC's declaration of a climate emergency.

As life members of the Beaumaris Conservation Society, prior committee members of BCS, current committee members of Beaumaris Modern and regular objectors to many VPO3 protected tree removals, this is a really important issue for us and our 12-year-old daughter.

We moved to Beaumaris purely for the unique built and natural form of the area. Over the 12 years we've lived here, we have seen beautiful homes, trees and gardens destroyed around us. Having just come off the back of a four-day VCAT hearing where we were objecting to an application that included removal of multiple healthy & mature trees on a property where local laws, VPO3 and SLO1 protections are in place – the problems with the current system were glaringly obvious.

In this case, the applicant's legal team used Council planner's prior approval of the application against Councils QC. It is frustrating that applicants and Council's arborists can successfully argue for tree removal based on their tree assessments. In these assessments, the term 'arboricultural value' is the catchphrase used by professional arborists. However, 'arboriculture value' describes the aesthetic landscaping value of the plant in the context of a new development, rather than the viability of the plant, or its holistic value considering canopy coverage, amenity, or habitat value. Hence, 'arboricultural value' along with a checklist approach to landscaping / replanting plans, is used to justify the complete moonscaping of blocks for redevelopment.

We have heard plenty of stories of local real estate agents happily pointing out to prospective buyers that 'there's some VPO protected trees, but don't worry you can overturn that at Council!'

We therefore respectfully ask Council to consider:

- a focus upon recalibrating your planning approach to ensure far less of our existing canopy on private land can be reduced through the planning scheme. If the language and assessment methodology of the Council arborists is modified, and the planners push-back on applicants' arborists methodology, then we may have some hope in reducing unnecessary loss
- A thoughtful and detailed communication strategy INCLUDING developers and real estate agents. Vegetation protections should not simply be planning obstacles that can be 'gotten around', like going 400mm over a setback. The holistic value of existing trees needs to be understood and appreciated. We need the planning process to result in more thoughtful residential design that works around existing natural assets.
- A serious reevaluation of the 'fast track' Vic Smart application process. This is another 'out' that developers love to take advantage of.

Thank you for reading our submission and once again, commendations on the initiative.

Annie Price, Jamie Paterson, and Dottie Paterson (aged 12).

6. Mr Derek Screen (on behalf of Pennydale Residents Action Group Inc)

Dear Councillors,

Re AGENDA ITEM 10.1 – Draft Bayside Urban Forest Strategy

Thank you for reading this request to be heard and we hope that you take our points and concerns on boards when you are making decisions on this very important Policy for Bayside and for us all.

My name is Derek screen and I am the President of the Pennydale Residents Action Group (Inc) (PRAG). I write on behalf of PRAG and of the residents of the Pennydale neighbourhood of Cheltenham.

As someone who took part in the Community consultation process on behalf of PRAG for the putting together of this Draft Urban Forest Strategy, I can say right away that not only do we consider this Strategy to be vital for the future of Bayside, but that we are so pleased that Council also has the same beliefs that we have – that we need to ensure that this Strategy is not only robust and detailed, but that it comes with teeth and the willingness to use them when needed.

HOW DOES PENNYDALE FIT INTO THIS STRATEGY IN THE BIG SCHEME OF THINGS?

The initial study for the Urban Forest Strategy was conducted in Beaumaris. It is a very leafy, very wooded suburb when compared to the rest of Bayside and it made sense to do the study here because apart from being so trees, it is covered by the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) and to see how this overlay affected the coverage of canopy trees as well as what had been lost over the years could be used to see a progression of the effects of canopy tree loss on the suburb. And it did show that, and more.

As part of the study, basic figures were also released to show comparison between Beaumaris and the other Bayside suburbs and as part of that, each suburbs figures were released individually, except for Cheltenham which contains both the Pennydale Neighbourhood, the Weatherall Road / Charman Road residential areas, but also the aforementioned open spaces including parks, golf courses, school, cemeteries, and, importantly, the Bayside Business District. At the time PRAG made a submission to Council as well as standing up in front of a Council meeting to say that the figures supplied did NOT give a fair and accurate representation of what was occurring on the ground because all of these things were lumped together under the Cheltenham name, and when the Pennydale only figures were viewed separately, it was clear that Pennydale was in fact the WORST PERFORMING Bayside residential area. Not much has changed, if anything, it has in fact gotten worse.

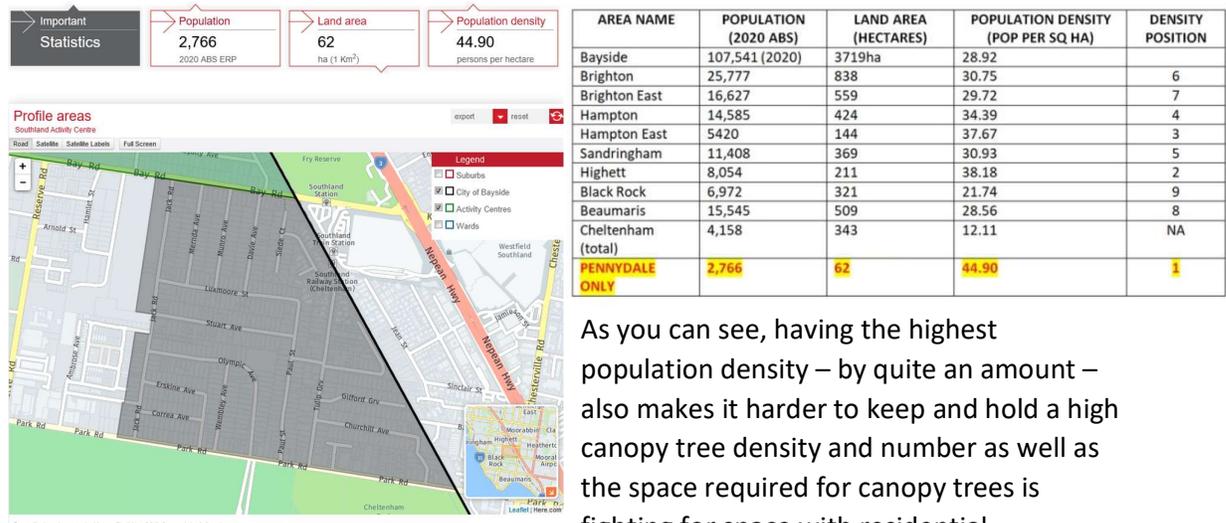
HOW DOES THIS STRATEGY AFFECT THOSE PEOPLE IN PENNYDALE?

Pennydale is a neighbourhood which is a part of Cheltenham. We are a very condensed residential area with a lovely park at its core, lots of open space to our South with Cheltenham Park and Cheltenham and Victoria Golf Courses, but we also have something

the rest of Bayside does not have – the Bayside Business District (BBD) directly to our West and Southland Shopping Centre directly to our East. Because of these things, Pennydale remains and will remain unless something is drastically done quickly, the worst treed area of all of Bayside Municipality.

I have put together the details below in graphics so make it easy to see our concerns and to show you what we are fighting. When you see the figures separated out, you can see that Pennydale has a number of issues that are all connected together to make the area the worst performing.

Firstly, using the exact same figures and sources used by Bayside Council (ID Forecast), you can see that Pennydale (or is being called by ID – Southland Activity Centre) actually has its own page and it shows all the appropriate figures. Please see image below. Separating out ALL of the Bayside suburb areas from ID forecasts data you can see in the other image below that Pennydale, when separated out from the rest of Cheltenham, is in fact the HIGHEST DENSITY AREA of ALL of Bayside



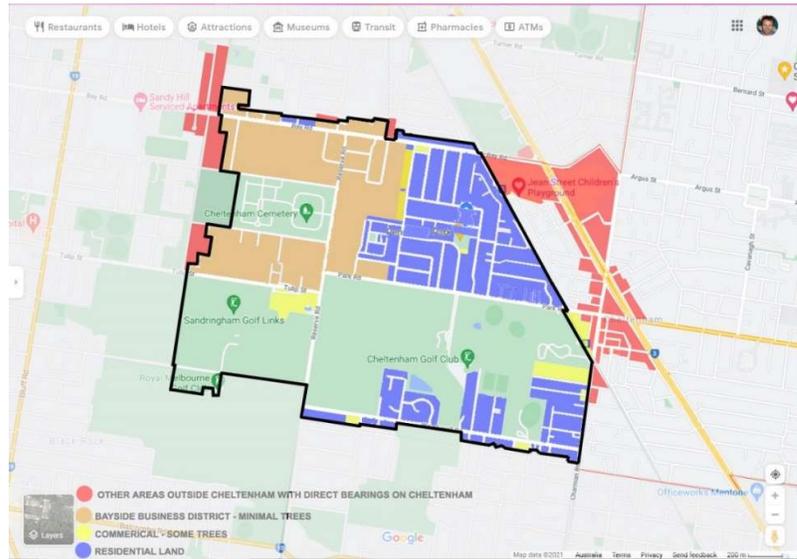
As you can see, having the highest population density – by quite an amount – also makes it harder to keep and hold a high canopy tree density and number as well as the space required for canopy trees is fighting for space with residential

development.

If you can see in the chart those residential along the Frankston railway line are the 3 highest population dense areas and this is done because the Bayside Housing Scheme puts the majority of higher density housing along that railway line. This means that even with TODAY’S figures of population density, these figures will INCREASE. Obviously, this ALSO means that the ABILITY to plant and grow MORE canopy trees to INCREASE the coverage will get HARDER AND HARDER and most likely, if nothing is done now, it will in fact go DOWN on an ever sliding scale. We can’t allow this.

But population density is only part of the story. Pennydale is also **UNIQUE** in that it is the **ONLY** area of Bayside that is **NEGATIVELY DIRECTLY AFFECTED** by what is around it. Please

see image to the right. I have created this image so it can **EASILY** be seen how Pennydale is affected by its surroundings. The man is of the **BAYSIDE** section (inside the black line) of Cheltenham which in fact crosses the municipal boundary into Kingston and continues all the way down to Moorabbin airport. The **PURPLE** sections are the **RESIDENTIAL** sections of Cheltenham with the larger area at the North being Pennydale and the smaller sections at the



South being those along Weatherall Road and Charman Road. The first thing you will notice is **HOW SMALL** as a percentage the residential sections of Cheltenham are compared to the entire suburb. Whilst other Bayside suburbs may have large parks in them, **NONE** of those green spaces lower the percentage of residential space to anything like what happens with Cheltenham. The second thing to notice is that the Southern sections of residential Cheltenham are in fact nestled within the golf course and Cheltenham park areas and as they are relatively small areas, 2 of them have parkland to both sides (and one across the road as well), and the other section along Charman Road is also surrounded on 2 sides. Whilst Pennydale does have a large Southern boundary with Cheltenham Park and the golf courses, it is a **MUCH BIGGER** area with **LESS OVERALL** aspect to the open space. The next thing you can see is the **ORANGE** section to the West of the map. This is the **BAYSIDE BUSINESS DISTRICT (BBD)** and whilst there are of course trees in this section, it is for the most part **CONCRETE AND STEEL** with **LOTS** of hard surfaces, very little open space not covered by concrete or bitumen and the buildings are generally of a size and height that prevailing winds have little or no heat reduction effect at all. To the **EAST** across the municipal boundary lies **SOUTHLAND SHOPPING CENTRE** and the Cheltenham Southland Activity Centre along the Nepean Highway (both in **RED**) and again, whilst there **ARE** trees, like the BBD, these areas are essentially **CONCRETE, STEEL, GLASS** and **BITUMEN** and what trees are present are in no quantity or size to be able to counteract the effects of the effects of the **HEAT ISLAND EFFECT** that permeates these sites. As these areas is extremely **LOW** in trees, and the prevailing winds mostly travel from the **WEST OR THE EAST**, not matter which way the wind blows from, **PENNYDALE** cops the hot air picked up from these areas increasing our air temperature and making life harder for us. **NO WHERE ELSE IN BAYSIDE** has these types of conditions imposed on them **24hrs a day 365 days a year** like we do with the exception of the tiny strip of housing **WITHIN** the boundary of the BBD on Bay Road on either side of Cloyne Street as seen on the map. As you can see from the images and details above, Pennydale not only already has the highest population per square kilometre in all of

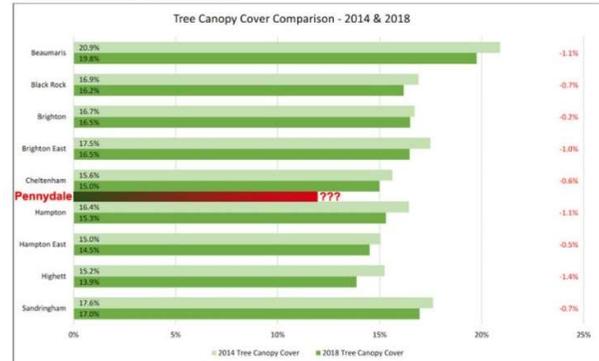
Bayside, but we are only a SMALL part of Cheltenham and as such the figures presented in the Draft Urban Forest Strategy document are NOT ACCURATE when looked at objectively.

SO HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE FIGURES?

If Pennydale only takes up 62 hectares of Cheltenham’s 343 hectares (approx. 18% of the space), and we already have the highest density of population in all of Bayside and all in single and double storey residences meaning less space for trees. Approximately only, the Weatherall / Charman Road residential area takes up around 9% of the Cheltenham area. The BBD takes up around 34% of the Cheltenham area. This means that Cheltenham Park, 2 golf courses, 2 cemeteries and a school (which has its own huge treed sanctuary at the back of it), takes up a whopping 61% of all the space in Cheltenham. So what does this mean?

Essentially, this means that whilst the diagram found on page 10 of the Draft Urban Forest Strategy (see image below) shows that Highett has the lowest percentage canopy cover, followed by Hampton East (both as I mention along the Frankston railway line), and these

Figure 1 Suburb wide Tree Canopy Cover in 2014 and 2018



areas like the rest of Bayside are PREDOMINANTLY RESIDENTIAL, considering that a HUGE proportion of Cheltenham’s space is taken up by OPEN SPACE including HEAVILY TREED golf courses, HEAVILY TREED Cheltenham Park, HEAVILY TREES school and cemeteries, the RESIDENTIAL ARE OF PENNYDALE then MUST have a SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER tree coverage that Highett, Hampton East, and of course the rest of Bayside. Considering the maps of Highett and Hampton East show only a small amount of open space canopy trees, then the MAJORITY of their LOW figures MUST come from the much larger percentage of land covered by the residential areas. Whilst not diminishing the LOW coverage of canopy trees in both these areas that ALSO need URGENT attention, it is CLEAR than Pennydale DOES HAVE THE LOWEST COVERAGE OF CANOPY TREES.

WHAT ELSE?

The Draft Urban Forest Strategy also mentions a Socio Economic disadvantage map of Bayside showing that Highett and Hampton East (both again along the Frankston Railway line and the other 2 lowest canopy coverage areas) as being the most Socio Disadvantaged in Bayside. The LOWER the score, the MORE disadvantage in that area. The map is indisputable and clearly shows the majority of disadvantage along the Frankston line with sections of Highett as low as 953 and others between 1064 and 1075, and for Hampton East sections as low as 857 and 938 with other sections ranging between 1017 and 1113. Whilst Pennydale is not as bad as those 2 suburbs, we also have an area at 1067 along the railway line and the rest of the area is at 1082, 1083 and 1128, closer to Park Road. Whilst these scores are hard to lock down as they take in a lot of information from the ABS, generally speaking whilst



Brighton has scores up to 1189, Brighton East up to 1173, Hampton up to 1187, Sandringham up to 1175, Black Rock up to 1167 (but also with areas much lower), and Beaumaris with areas up to 1169 (also with areas lower), Pennydale too has areas that are lower than a good proportion of Bayside not including Highett and Hampton East. In Bayside the LOWEST score is 857 and the HIGHEST score is 1189. Suggesting in the Draft Strategy Document that FOCUS should be made to Highett and Hampton over the rest of the municipality is NOT an adequate way to look at the issue as the rest of us – including here in Pennydale – also suffer from Socio disadvantage in some of our residents as well. Sure, it needs to be taken into account, but it should not be a definitive figure to look at.

OTHER ISSUES? CONCLUSION.

It seems to me reading the document and looking at not only its timeline but its logical budget that whilst Bayside are taking this Strategy seriously, it CAN take it MORE seriously. I would URGE Council to look at the future and work NOT to begin the process as FAST as possible, not stretch it out over time. Bayside is lucky to be in the BLACK financially which is great. USE MORE of this money to enact this QUICKLY as the faster we do this the faster we begin to negate the issues of Climate Change. I would URGE Council to NOT allocate just enough money to do a pilot study, and certainly NOT just enough money to focus on a single area. Yes, I have focussed on Pennydale in this document BECAUSE IT NEEDS to be looked at differently to the rest of Bayside, but we ALL need this Strategy to work for ALL of Bayside.

I thank you for your time and efforts on our behalf and ask that you take the comments of this document into consideration as part of your deliberations. A note that I have sent this document as a WORD document so that you may enlarge the images within easily to be able to view them properly.

Derek Screen
For the Pennydale Residents Action Group (Inc)

7. Mr Chris Sutton

Dear Mr Mayor and Councillors,

Firstly, congratulations to Councillors and Council officers who have supported and persisted with achieving this stage in preparing an Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) for Bayside. I would like to submit the following comments on the report to the Ordinary meeting of Council on 17 August and the draft strategy:

General Comments

- It is important to communicate that the UFS is not only about trees, but, as defined in the UFS, the urban forest comprises trees, shrubs, grasslands and other vegetation and the soil and groundwater that support them.

Residents may oppose the UFS if they perceive it is only about retaining large trees on their land. It is important that residents understand the UFS promotes a diversity of vegetation and not just large trees. The UFS language should be focussed on the positive benefits to residents from planting a diverse range of vegetation in their gardens and where possible, the UFS should use a word or words that refers to a mix of vegetation and not solely refer to trees.

- A major benefit of the UFS will be to set a vision of what an ideal urban forest means for our neighbourhoods. The VPO, SLO and local law have failed vegetation by only focussing on single trees. While an arborist may assess a single tree to be in less than ideal health and suitable for removal, this assessment does not evaluate the positive contribution a single tree provides when assessed collectively with all the vegetation on a site.

The UFS changes the focus from assessing and replacing individual trees, to setting a vision for the collective contribution of all the urban forest, from the largest tree to the micro-organisms in the soil. The VPO and SLO protected some trees but has not protected the majority of vegetation comprising trees of many sizes and states of health. The UFS is the missing link between retaining trees as intended by the VPO and SLO and maintaining and achieving the preferred urban forest.

- I recommend the definition of urban forest be expanded to include a reference to habitat comprising animals, birds, insects and micro-organisms, all of which both support and depend on the urban forest.
- I am pleased the officers have included a fifth component focussing on the need for greater community engagement, support, information and resources regarding trees and vegetation.

This is one of the most important aspects of the UFS. It is imperative that residents understand and willingly support the vision and benefits of the UFS and not disregard it as just another tree control causing a burden from having trees on their property.

The importance of education was highlighted in the following two key recommendations of the vegetation assessment conducted over 20 years ago that led to implementing a VPO:

- That community awareness of the significance of this vegetation be raised – especially in the development industry.
- Advisory and information services be provided to assist land owners with the care and maintenance of vegetation. The service should include lists of indigenous species and their requirements, recommended maintenance and care, and planting/revegetation encouragement (e.g. discounted plant costs, some free plants).

10.1 Draft Bayside Urban Forest Strategy officers report

- I am optimistic that the draft UFS will achieve a positive outcome for our urban forest because it includes numeric targets. In the words of management consultant Peter Drucker *“you can't manage what you can't measure”*.

By committing to a target we can measure the contribution and progress achieved on public land by council and private land by residents.

Ideally we can target a tree canopy of 40% in Beaumaris and link this into the planning scheme with a minimum impermeable space requirement of 40%, maximum site coverage of 40% and maximum impermeable space coverage of 20%.

- The Setting the Draft Strategy Community Engagement section of the officer's report should have presented a more positive outlook on the benefits of a UFS rather than describing them as challenges. For too long vegetation reports to council had limited impact by focussing on the challenges of protecting vegetation and defaulting to existing controls.

A positive outlook is needed to engage the community that emphasises the vision of the UFS is to improve resident quality of life and the amenity of their neighbourhood.

- The Financial and resource impacts section only highlights the negative financial impacts of significant costs, resourcing, contractual and maintenance implications and the Finance section states that the budget implications will need to be taken into consideration. Both these sections of the report omit reference to the positive long term benefits derived from a UFS. These benefits are the financial valuation of trees, reducing heat island impacts, reducing stormwater run-off and the social and mental health benefits of healthier environments.

The Victorian State government is developing financial measures of the cost of climate change and council should include similar costings for Bayside and how these costs can be offset by the benefits derived from an UFS.

- The Next Steps section is simply uninspiring. The UFS will provide major positive change for Bayside and the next steps should be promoting the benefits of this change to residents.

The UFS is a lengthy and detailed report. It is essential community engagement provides residents with an easy to understand presentation about the reasons and the benefits an UFS will make to their lives.

I refer Councillors to the City of Vancouver UFS presentations which provide excellent easy to understand information on why Vancouver undertook their UFS. The City of Melbourne, City of Banyule and many other councils have produced similar presentations. I have provided links here and attached a copy of presentation I prepared in February 2019 to promote the idea of preparing a UFS with Bayside strategic planners:

<https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/urban-forest-strategy.aspx>

<https://vancouver.ca/files/cov/Urban-Forest-Strategy-Draft.pdf>

<https://parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/2018/20180430/PRESENTATION-UrbanForestStrategy2018Update-20180430.pdf>

<https://www.banyule.vic.gov.au/About/Strategies/Urban-forest-plan>

Draft Urban Forest Strategy

- **Our Goal** – the most positive aspect of the Strategy. I recommend an interim target should be set for 2040 rather than setting a 9 year target and a 29 year target.

Over time we should expect more interim targets will be refined and set.

- **Strategic Objectives of the Strategy** – The objectives should include a reference to water, i.e. retention of stormwater from increased tree canopy and a reference to habitat under biodiversity.
- **Maintain** – Strategy 4.1 and Action Plan Item 22 – I support the excellent recommendation to introduce a “Tree education officer” and/or Urban Forest Officer.

In the past too much emphasis has been placed on the assessment of trees from an arborist perspective. While important, the arborist input is too focussed on tree removal applications and needs to be balanced by an officer that focuses on achieving the vision of the UFS strategies and educates residents about how they can contribute to the UFS by retaining and planting new vegetation.

Item 10.3

Outcomes of community engagement –

Wilson Recreation Reserve –

Brighton Grammar Proposal

1. Mr Jeff Naylor

Wilson Rec Reserve is one of our precious remaining open spaces in Bayside. Adjacent to Bayley House with the highest concentration of people with disabilities in our municipality and there are many elderly in close proximity of the reserve.

I'd like to see an inclusive playground, changing places toilet block, rotunda's / shelters, tables / chairs, BBQ's, climbing wall with soft fall base, drinking fountain with dog bowl.

The natural slope of the reserve could readily accommodate a flying fox.

I'm sure the skiers in Bayside would love a short grass ski run with a tow rope which could be operated as a small business licensed by Council to teach people how to ski properly. Seating to view these activities would be great too.

There are precious few 'safe' open spaces for disabled and the elderly to frequent without risk of being hit by sporting balls or those playing or practicing sport. Elderly face huge risk of breaking a hip or incurring other serious injuries. WRR is ideally situate to accommodate these community groups and have sport played elsewhere in the municipality. We really need to address the shortage of facilities for pwd & aged populations in Bayside and this is a great opportunity to do this.

2. Mrs Cathy Henderson

The Council website indicates that Brighton Grammar School (BGS) has withdrawn its proposal for the redevelopment of Wilson Reserve together with a nine year lease. However, BGS seek to continue with their "existing usage arrangements" of the reserve.

Such existing usage arrangements include Saturday rugby matches, weekday lunchtime overflow, unlimited weekday sports classes and after-school training. The only BGS use with any historical background is the Saturday rugby.

As a resident who lives across the road from the reserve, I have observed that BGS has markedly increased its weekday use of the reserve throughout every lunchtime, every afternoon and after school hours. It has become clear that BGS has an agenda to effectively convert Wilson Reserve into a BGS oval on all weekdays throughout the year and on all Saturdays during the rugby season.

Given that Wilson Reserve is one of the few remaining green open spaces complete with expansive lawn plus mature trees and abundant birdlife, it is imperative that Council protect public access to the reserve. If Council is to achieve such protection of public access, it must not grant open-ended access rights to any school, especially not a school with numerous ovals of its own.

Accordingly, any licence/usage arrangements granted to BGS should not extend to lunchtime overflows or unlimited sports classes/training. Constant lunchtime overflows and unlimited sports classes/training sessions carry all the hallmarks of being a school oval. Moreover, these open-ended usage arrangements directly result in locals being unable to use the reserve for the majority of the week.

If Council does not clearly delineate and restrict BGS usage arrangements in respect of this precious park, Council's legacy will be the permanent reduction of public access to Wilson Reserve. Given the increasing density in Bayside, Council needs to guard public access to such beautiful open space more vigilantly than ever.

3. Ms Jen Bishop

Re; BGS Current Usage of Wilson Recreation Reserve

Dear Councillors,

Myself and many other community members welcome the abandonment of the BGS 9 year lease proposal for WRR for a number of community access and equity reasons. Along with the significant issues of shrinking open space and the environmental issues of lack of tree canopy in the Dendy ward surrounds.

1. ISSUES OF ACCESS Fairness and EQUITY of BGS sporting/non sporting use of WRR

A. Council owns the public space of WRR which is the only island of green space amongst buildings , business and retail precinct in the Church St/ Bay St area.

Therefore, this is rare oasis of public open space and should be accessible to the community (residents and ratepayers in their 1km walk zone) for passive and active leisure activity (non organised sport usage) as well as its sports usage.

I would argue at present this balance, excludes important stakeholder groups such as residents, ratepayers, the disabled, the elderly living in aged care. All these groups particularly the disabled and elderly often don't have the options to drive elsewhere other than WRR.

This means overuse by one sporting group (BGS) means lack of access, equity and fairness for the most vulnerable in our community. Who are members of the public (not a private group). This is against the principles and the law around excluding the disabled from public spaces under the "Disability Discrimination Act" relevant to local government law.

The reason such groups are excluded are due to reasons of safety. A disabled person in a wheelchair or an elderly person who is not stable will not feel comfortable entering a public area where random balls fly at them, where they feel a youth culture is not aware of their safety or needs during a robust and fast game of rugby or other sporting training for large groups of young men.

B. Council have argues that the grounds are underutilised . Yet, under the Council local laws, no person may enter the space where a sporting group is playing except for public officials, coaches, teachers and players. Therefore when BGS has such high usage of WRR every weekday and weekends, the public are dissuaded from using the Reserve. In fact there are large areas they are not allowed to use.

C. Council officers have also argued that community, the disabled, elderly, residents and ratepayers (95%) of the community, can access the reserve at any time sport is not being played. However after multiple emails to council it is obvious that the use of WRR is extensive and exclusive of these groups.

2. ACTUAL USAGE OF WRR BY BGS EXCLUDES OTHER SCHOOLS AND THE COMMUNITY

A. Under Freedom of Information request made to BCC governance department Doc 66 reveals the following usage of BGS of WRR.

BGS USAGE

6(b)Hours of Use School Year

Weekdays
7.00am–8.00am
10.30am–11.05am
12.50pm–1.55pm

Between 1 April and 30 September
As School year above and
Weekdays 3.30pm–5.30pm
Weekends 8.00am–3.00pm

If this is true. This leaves almost no usage for the community of WRR during the April to 30 Sept period. With the reserve being used for the entirety of the weekend excluding 3 to 5 pm on Sat and Sunday.

It also means BGS are using the Reserve for a minimum of 4.5 hours of the day. with the 8 till 9 am and 3,30 to 5.30 pm being the prime time hours the community will want to use this before and after work.

B. According to information received by the community up to 10 local schools have tried to access WRR and whom do not have the resources or the grounds BGS have, and have been unable to do so.

So not only is the current usage by BGS dominating. It is excluding access and equity for other local schools and residents.

3. BGS HAS EXTENSIVE GROUNDS AND IS NOT USING THEM FIRST

BGS very extensive current grounds are not currently being utilised. The usage of public land by a private organisation to “save maintenance” on their own grounds is just not a suitable excuse or use of public land, particularly when other stakeholder groups are being excluded.

We have had several community members visit WRR to find it full of BGS kids eating lunch and “no-one on their own grounds. Photographic evidence can be provided.

This is an extraordinary misuse of public land, whilst having availability on their own grounds. This does not pass the pub test. Whilst many locals miss out on access to WRR and other local public schools also miss out.

It is proposed that BGS use only WRR for sporting activity without using it as an extension of their own school grounds for lunch, recess and spillover, in particular whilst their own grounds remain empty.

In addition, it is proposed that BGS have the same and not priority booking use of WRR as a sporting reserve. So that other schools without extensive grounds can have equity of access. This means revising BGS usage substantially to a couple of hours per week, rather than all weekend and 4 hours per school day.

4. FUTURE/VISION OF WRR as a BALANCED OPEN SPACE RESERVE

It is proposed that proper community consultation take place on what the residents/ratepayers would like for access and for infrastructure for Wilson Reserve.

I would recommend that we need increased tree canopy, shelter for older people and the

disabled. A landscaping of the area that is more disability/wheelchair friendly. A space for offlead dogs. Picnic tables, a barbecue. A human and dog drinking fountain. A disabled and regular toilet block for all. An inclusive playground and perhaps a sensory garden.

Specific signage is necessary to clearly illustrate sporting hours to avoid confusion for residents and visitors and their needs to be a better balance between youth usage and family/community usage of this rare green space.

Thankyou
Jen Bishop
Bayside resident, ratepayer

4. Ms Katrina Fraser & Mr Brett Goodrich

Dear Mayor and Councillors

Re Agenda Item 10.3 - Outcomes of Community Engagement - Wilson Recreation Reserve - Brighton Grammar Proposal.

Objection to the continuance of the existing high level and disproportionate use by Brighton Grammar of Wilson Recreation Reserve.

We welcome the withdrawal by Brighton Grammar School (BGS) of the proposed 9 year licence of Wilson Recreation Reserve (WRR) as we consider the licensing of any community parkland to a private entity is grossly and fundamentally inappropriate, and that it is Bayside City Council's (BCC) responsibility to protect their use from vested interests and inequitable use; maintain and preserve such parkland and open spaces, primarily for public use. In our view, this 'licence' model/approach to public parkland constitutes a significant and disturbing departure from one in which parkland exists, primarily for public use, and in which, it is incumbent on local government to protect them from such encroachment. Exclusive use is brought about by via local laws which prevail when sporting and other groups are in operation, preventing other individuals and groups from being within a certain distance.

Consequently, and following the outcomes of the recent BCC Community Engagement, in which 'strong localised opposition' to the licence proposal was received and 'significant concern relating to a perception of excessive use, the risk of private entities taking away open space from the community', we believe it is now timely to review the status quo, in which BGS's level of access to this public parkland, is inequitable, disproportionate, inappropriate and should not have been sanctioned for over 15 years.

There also appears to be a high level of interest in -

BCC to better cater for the needs of passive recreation users;
Explore and leave open future options for the park, in the context of increasing population densification and the impacts of climate change.

We consider the following use by BGS as demonstrably excessive -

During 'Winter' (rather, a 6 month period from April to September), Saturdays 8.00am to 2.00pm, and Monday to Thursday afternoons from 3.30pm to 5.30pm;
School recess, lunch and physical education sessions - referred to as 'spillover', but possibly an alternative to the use of BGS grounds. We also understand students access the park prior to school.
During Summer - Year long access during lunch times and access outside of community cricket bookings.

This excessive use by a private entity has been justified on the basis of it being a 'historical' arrangement for many years, is invalid.

We therefore request the current exclusive access be reviewed and reduced for the following reasons -

1. BGS have an excessive and disproportionate use of WRR, and in particular, at the most popular times for community use and during Winter daylight hours. It seems highly inappropriate

that such privileged use by a private entity has been sanctioned by BCC when BGS have extensive sports grounds and the capacity to buy or lease land elsewhere. It appears BGS prefer to use WRR, rather than their own grounds. The use of WRR as 'lunch break overflow' and recess space for students is incomprehensible when they have extensive grounds and facilities for recess/lunch breaks and physical education. We believe it is inappropriate for a public park to utilised as an extension or alternative to school grounds for lunch and recess periods. In addition, the appearance of and associated noise from large numbers of students and rugby attired players may create a disincentive and perception that the park is 'off limits' to other users.

2. Parkland in this area is limited and mostly shared with sporting groups. The health and wellbeing benefits of passive and general recreation are supported by research indicating how health and wellbeing are optimised, by the provision of natural reserves where people can relax, recreate and socialise. The over allocation of time to BGS for rugby, training and physical education, lends support to an increasing perception that BCC prioritises organised sport, and in the case of WRR, the wants of a well resourced private school, over the passive and other recreation needs of the community. The level of support to sporting entities is evident in BCC's draft 2021-2022 budget which proposes a record \$37.35 million, on sports and recreation infrastructure, in stark contrast to the proposed \$2.1 million for foreshores and conservation. Given passive recreation users of all ages, outnumber those involved in organised sport, this excessive level of use appears unwarranted and inequitable. The lack of seating, shade/undercover area, drinking fountains, toilets, dog bowl and other amenities is a barrier to increased appeal and community use. In fact 69% of respondents in the 2019 BCC consultations requested such amenities.

3. The allocation of a high level, disproportionate and exclusive use to one private entity also seems at odds with the philosophy and principles of community wellbeing, equity, access and inclusion. Bayside's draft Public Health and WellBeing Plan -2021-2025 refers to Bayside's above average aged and ageing population, and an expected increase in the number of people with disabilities. It outlines a commitment to increasing 'active and passive physical activity/recreation, a fair and inclusive community and opportunities for all ages and abilities'. Improved amenities would facilitate an increase in individuals and groups being attracted to and using WRR.

4. Bayside's aim to increase tree canopy from 16% to 25% (Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2021-25) to mitigate the impacts of Climate Change (including increased temperatures and heat waves) should also be considered given the current landscaping at WRR is not consistent with urban cooling strategies.

Yours faithfully
Katrina Fraser
Brett Goodrich

5. Ms Glenys Fraser & Mr Ian Pascal

This is a welcome and overdue opportunity for Council to reassess the extraordinarily privileged, overly –generous and effective exclusionary access enjoyed by Brighton Grammar School (BGS) at the expense of its use by passive community users of Wilson Recreation Reserve (WRR). In particular, it is highly objectionable that Council is being invited to sanction this current privileged usage, as per the Summary contained in this Agenda item, namely:

BGS are seeking to continue with existing reserve usage arrangements that are made in line with all Bayside schools when booking the use of Council open space. It is proposed that Council note that this proposal is no longer active and that BGS use of Wilson Reserve continues to be managed in line with existing Council booking and allocation procedures.

1. Fundamentally, BCC seems to have lost sight of the fact that WRR is a precious open space, and is one of very few open spaces in this part of Brighton. This anomalous situation is even more perplexing in an era of repeated waves of increasingly infectious variants of the SARS-Covid 19 virus, where access to open space is more precious and important to mental and physical wellbeing than ever. This is against a backdrop of Brighton's increasing population and climate change impacts demand more green shaded spaces. Council **should be providing additional open green space to its whole community** and to that end, reviewing the overly generous and exclusionary access allowed to BGS.
2. For these reasons, WRR should be developed by BCC to make it **more accessible and amenable** to the local community at large, and consistent with increasingly hot and lengthy dry seasons, this would involve for example the planting and cultivation of more shady trees, building an undercover area, toilets, drinking fountains (for both community and companion animals), picnic tables, and BBQ (as requested by 69% of respondents in the 2019 community consultation). It is appropriate and necessary that BCC fund these improvements, and not private interests who expect and demand privileged access as a return on their investment.
3. The longstanding and inappropriate current use of WRR by BGS students, whether for so-called 'spillover' recess, lunchtime, physical education and/or sports training and matches is exclusionary (partly as a result of local by-laws) and offends the principle that WRR is a public space that should be accessible by the entire community. Irrespective of the exclusionary operation of by-laws, passive users of the park are in practical terms disinclined to use WRR at all, if BGS students are congregating there for recess breaks, or participating in physical education, sports training or matches (over Winter, anomalously

described as from September-April!!!). This is because these active and passive uses are fundamentally inconsistent in terms of the generation of noise and plastic pollution, the scale and vigorousness of high intensity sports usages on the part of BGS students and the relaxed casual enjoyment of open spaces by a range of community users.

4. It is clearly the case that BGS already has extensive tracts of playing field space at its disposal, indeed far in excess of that enjoyed by many other Bayside schools. The current nature and extent of use of WRR by BGS is inappropriate, unnecessary and excessive, and operates to effectively deprive the community of free and enjoyable access to WRR.

Glenys Fraser & Ian Pascal

6. Mr Basil Tambanis

Dear Councillors,

My family lives on Outer Crescent and we have utilised Wilson Street Reserve (Reserve) almost daily over the past 13 years. We would like to share our thoughts around how the Reserve could be upgraded to provide residents with a minimum level of enjoyment, hygiene and safety. In addition, we would like to share our concerns in relation to the activities currently undertaken by Brighton Grammar School (BGS).

We all recognise that the Reserve is one of the VERY FEW areas of public open space in the heart of Brighton. Council and residents acknowledge there is insufficient green open space for families at the current time and with ongoing population growth and increased density, Bayside residents will face a situation where the public open space will be totally inadequate to meet the minimum needs of the community.

I cannot see that the Council has undertaken any real initiatives to increase the amount of public open space in Bayside and therefore I believe it is even more important to ensure the current open space is accessible by all residents, in particular those with young families at any time of the day.

At the best of times mental health can be challenging for many in our community and during this pandemic individuals and families are more susceptible to significant challenges ranging from depression, domestic violence and suicide. Access to public open space is a critical escape for parents and in particular kids caught in what seems to be ongoing lockdowns. The Reserve is an important place for all families and should not just be seen as a sporting oval for Schools.

Right now, families are denied access to the Reserve for much of the time as BGS utilise the Reserve at recess, lunchtimes, after school and on weekends. Almost every time I see BGS using utilising the reserve its own oval across the road does not have a single student on it.

When the Reserve is overrun by teenagers at any one time it has a very different feel and atmosphere, in particular for young kids, toddlers and parents. For some reason BGS students move onto the playground area where at times, I have had to ask them to stop using offensive language in front of young children, or to get off playground equipment designed for toddlers as they overwhelm the structural integrity of swings and frighten young kids.

We do not want the Reserve to be swamped with bigger kids when the rest of the community has the right to enjoy family time in a relaxed environment. Although BGS has no contractual rights to the Reserve, they are currently monopolising it and preventing families and other public schools in the area from using what are public grounds. These public schools have to bus their kids out of Bayside which is a timely and costly activity. As a Member of Council at Brighton Beach Primary School it greatly upsets me that our kids are disadvantaged by lack of access to the Reserve

and no other alternatives at this point in time. The bus travel time reduces the time kids are in the classroom or participating in sporting activities.

BGS must refrain from its current activities, in particular non sport or overflow activities as these are not authorised activities set out by council. Although Rugby Union is a permitted sport, BGS damage the grounds through training and playing games. This is the only activity that turns parts of the oval into a quagmire where families cannot walk across it let alone play safely. Ideally, the Reserve would be available for bookings for all primary schools as the older teenagers can overwhelm families of young children.

Bayside residents pay incredibly high rates relative to other areas, and now in the middle of a pandemic where families are haemorrhaging more than ever, Council increases rates while reducing our services such as rubbish collection. Council has a \$30m surplus and the most densely populated open space in Brighton is without a water bubbler or toilets. Can you please provide mums and their kids with a toilet so they don't get stressed about basic needs and have them go in the bushes or worse. In previous Council meetings the Mayor has proclaimed the BGS proposal was all about economics and the maintenance costs of the Reserve. Residents expect a prominent and valuable open space in the heart of Brighton be maintained by Council at all times.

We have never seen a kids birthday party held at the playground. Residents must go elsewhere to find a standalone table, BBQ, Shade and toilets. It would be great for families in the area to be able to enjoy these amenities that other playgrounds have. I'm sure that the adjoining Recreation Centre could support an external toilet and change room for the Reserve. Council Submission

I ask you to as a Councillor to support the families in Bayside and protect their access to open green space where they can enjoy some basic amenities that would significantly make our experience more enjoyable.

Kind regards,

Basil Tambanis

7. Mr Kevin Howard

Submission re item 10.3 OUTCOMES OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – WILSON RECREATION RESERVE – BRIGHTON GRAMMAR PROPOSAL

It is pleasing to see that Brighton Grammar (BGS) have gauged the community sentiment and withdrawn their latest proposal to licence Wilson Rec Reserve (WRR). Long term licences that lock away usage of public land will never be in the best interests of the wider community and any such agreement would set a dangerous precedent.

Open Space Strategy

The motion agreed in the Feb 2021 Council meeting specifically required officers to produce an **“assessment of the proposal against Council's Open Space Strategy 2012 and any impact the proposal will have on availability of open space for community use within the Middle Brighton area”**.

This was not done, but I have illustrated the impact with the graphic below which is derived from Council's Open Space Strategy.

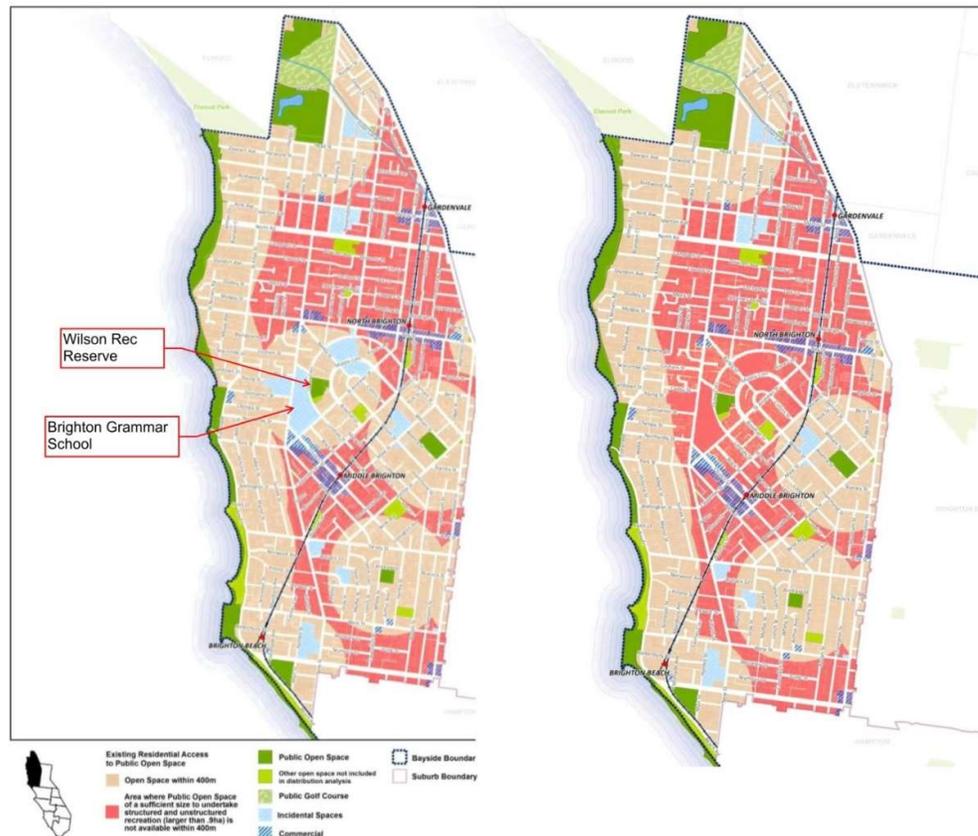
The red/pink areas indicate open space deficiencies.

The map on the right shows what happens to open space availability in Brighton when BGS use Wilson Rec Reserve.

Distribution and nature of open space

Figure 13 Deficiencies in open space in Brighton

Deficiencies in open space in Brighton **when BGS use Wilson Reserve**



How Wilson Rec Reserve is used

The BGS proposal, coupled with Council's poor communication during the community consultation, has thankfully highlighted the extent to which BGS already monopolises Wilson Rec Reserve, which raises a serious concern on two fronts.

Firstly, the school's multiple daily time-slot usage prevents other less well-resourced schools from using the reserve, even though BGS has ample facilities of its own, which often remain unused while BGS students are using public land.

Secondly, when Council's Open Space Strategy 2012 is taken into account, BGS use of the reserve disadvantages the general public who may wish to use this open space for casual recreation and relaxation.

I note the section of the Officers' report regarding "pop-up sessions" says *"most sessions found the reserve relatively unused, with majority of use being seen in the playground and Brighton Grammar training sessions. Use that was witnessed included, children kicking for goals, people walking dogs, running around the perimeter of the sportsground and users sitting on park benches"*

Local residents tell me that the reserve is not used as much as it could be on a casual basis because it is not viewed as a welcoming environment. It lacks basic facilities such as a table and chairs, toilets, water fountain, and any covered area. Local families with young children are also put off by the loud and rough play by boisterous BGS students on the reserve, who often use bad language which parents find offensive and do not want their young children exposed to.

Notably, in the community consultation re Wilson Rec Reserve reported to the Oct 2019 Council meeting, most respondents wanted "Amenities (drink fountain, tables, seating)", others requested an undercover area, toilets and a BBQ. These are basic amenities that most other reserves have, but for some reason not Wilson Rec Reserve.

What we pay for in our rates

One of the fundamental purposes residents expect our Council rates to be used for is the enhancement and maintenance of our public open space.

It's fair to say Brighton is a "cash cow" for Bayside City Council. A quarter of all Bayside residents live in Brighton and the suburb generates proportionally more rate income and open space levy income from property developers than any other suburb.

Despite this, Council has completely failed to upgrade and maintain one of Brighton's few pieces of open space and Officers repeatedly recommend trading preferential booking of the reserve in return for a financial contribution from a private school. This does not appear to happen anywhere else in Bayside.

I strongly object to Council making any concessions to BGS regarding Wilson Rec Reserve in return for any cash or works/maintenance. It is morally wrong to allow a wealthy private school (who pays no Council rates) to effectively buy preferential treatment from Council. Therefore I object to options 1 & 2 in the Officers' report.

Other Schools

Regardless of Council policy, allowing a private school with its own extensive grounds to book public open space for use as an extension of the school's playground, is not how the wider public expects our open space to be used.

Given that there are schools nearby who have little or no outdoor facilities for sport, BGS should not be allowed to book this public open space for overflow at recess and lunchtime, when they have their own playing fields directly across the road. If necessary Council policy should be changed to prevent open space booking being monopolised in the future. I would urge Council terminate this use as soon as possible. It's not like BGS students don't have anywhere else to play during recess and lunchtime.

Sportsground Condition

Council state that the primary purpose of Wilson Rec Reserve is a sportsground and the nominated sport in winter is "rugby". If Council is not able to prepare and maintain the sportsground in a condition that is appropriate for rugby, then perhaps the primary use should be changed and rugby should be played elsewhere that is more suitable.

Longer term this would probably be in the best interests of the general public and the rugby playing boys at BGS.

Kevin Howard

Brighton resident.

8. Ms Pauline Reynolds

Having considered the lack of public open space in Brighton particularly in the environs around the Wilson Reserve, it is a good decision that Brighton Grammar School has made to withdraw its application for exclusive use, at times, of the Reserve for a sports ground. It is reassuring that the School has listened and respected the community. I hope that the school stands by its decision into the future and remains the good neighbour it is currently.

However the reserve is in need of renovation and care because it appears to have been neglected over some time which leaves it, and the community, vulnerable to attempted 'take overs' such as this.

The report mentions how important open space has become during these unfortunate Covid 19 times and perhaps even more importantly, during this catastrophic time of climate change. Item 1 on this agenda is The Urban Forest Strategy. Wilson Reserve would be vastly improved with more trees and vegetation and could be a much more attractive open space than it currently is with a little more care and attention.

Council should consider renovation of the Reserve urgently and continue its shared use as it stands at the moment.

Again, congratulations to all for a good decision.

Pauline Reynolds

9. Miss Jenelle McKenzie

Mayor and Councillors,

My name is Jenelle and I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak to you in regards to the future of Wilson Recreational Reserve in Middle Brighton.

As we all know we are living in very different times with the effects of COVID 19.

And this has contributed to the pressing awareness that open green space is vital for the Community.

More than ever, we see the importance of pockets of green space providing immense health benefits both physically, mentally and socially.

Council you too saw this with the changed decision in keeping Elsternwick Park a Park for the Community. Now enhancing it with art sculptures, tree planting, upkeep of walking tracks and a playground upgrade to come.

This has been a great boost to the morale of the community and seeing hundreds flock to be a part of this is just incredible.

In light of your insights gained from Elsternwick Park, Brighton Grammar's historical booking use of Wilson Recreational Reserve needs to change.

Booking this public open space for 6 months of the year (April – September) before school hours, at recess, at lunchtime, afterschool and Saturday mornings is quite disturbing.

It is time to look and reassess the historical situation that Brighton Grammar have currently. A change in the booking system is required. Limiting Brighton Grammar's ability to monopolise the bookings would be a positive initiative. This then will allow other public schools and other social groups to utilise this public open space.

It too is timely to look at and incorporate the findings in Council's Community workshops held in June 2019 - The relationship of Wilson Rec' Reserve and the upgrade of Brighton Recreation Centre.

Some of those findings in the consultation for Wilson Recreational Reserve were -

*With the redeveloped Rec' centre to re-design access directly to Wilson Reserve

* A BBQ area for the public with table and chairs

*Park bench seating

*Public toilets including disabled

*Tennis wall

*Half Basketball courts

*Childcare out door space with a shade cloth

*Walking tracks accessible for all

*Improvements to landscaping

This is just a start. The strong desire to improve this open space is paramount.

I finish with a message from a resident I spoke with recently,

She said,

“I would be overjoyed to be able to invite my friends and family here and showcase what a beautiful park it has transformed into. That would be incredible.”

Thank you kindly.

Jenelle McKenzie

10. Miss Dianne Anderson

I wish to object to the Brighton Grammar's Proposal for Wilson Reserve. Brighton's population is increasing and with no additional open space being provided by Council, we can ill afford to give away that which we do have. Furthermore, Wilson Reserve is in an area of Brighton where there is little alternative open space. BGS is a private institution with their own playing fields and should not be allowed to monopolise public open space. Their proposed times of use leave very little opportunity for the public to enjoy Wilson Reserve. BGS should better manage their own resources and if need be, upgrade their playing fields to synthetic turf which would allow for greater usage. As it is, at recess and lunch time their own ovals are frequently empty while their students are using Wilson Reserve, not it would seem, as overflow, but simply in preference to using their own fields. I believe BGS has shown their hand by initially requesting a pavilion and a 21 year lease arrangement; the 9 year arrangement and upgrade of the Wilson Reserve will be the thin edge of the wedge and once that time has passed it will be even more difficult for residents and rate payers to argue against BGS's almost exclusive use of the public resource. The argument that BGS will upgrade the oval is spurious; the oval would only need that degree of upgrade to suit BGS's purposes. In any case, maintenance of Wilson Reserve should be done by Council and BGS taking on a Council responsibility should not be done in exchange for exclusive rights. I would request that the Reserve be upgraded as per the community consultation in 2019 to provide amenities including an undercover area, drinking fountains, picnic tables, seating etc for the use of the entire community.

If Wilson Reserve truly is Council owned, public open space and if the Council's priorities for the Reserve are community use and ease of access for residents then they should reject the BGS proposal.

Item 10.6
New Street Brighton Public Housing
Renewal Project
– Submission to Homes Victoria

1. Mr Viraj Perera (on behalf of Homes Victoria)

HHSD/21/582333

Bayside City Council
Ordinary Council Meeting
17 August 2021

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Homes Victoria thanks Council for the submission in response to the recent 3-week consultation on the designs for the New Street, Brighton site.

The council officer assessment on the public consultation materials is acknowledged and welcomed feedback into our ongoing engagement process. Our project partner, Building Communities, is preparing an engagement report which details responses to all feedback received from the consultation. This report will be published on Engage Victoria in September 2021.

We can confirm that Council's feedback and recommendations have been noted. These will be reviewed prior to the lodgement of the planning application to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in early September 2021.

Please note that, at the time of this letter, no planning application has been submitted to DELWP. Council will be provided with a copy of the planning application that is submitted to DELWP, with commentary on what direct responses have been made with respect to council's assessment.

On behalf of Homes Victoria and our project partner, Building Communities, we thank Council and the community for your ongoing engagement with our project team and your ongoing feedback on the redevelopment of the New Street Brighton site.

Yours sincerely



Viraj Perera
Program Director
Renewal Projects, Homes Victoria
16 / 08 / 2021

Item 10.7

**Potential Multi-Deck Commuter Car
Park in Service Street, Hampton**

1. Mr George Leighfield

The car park's justification is for use as a commuter carpark – i.e. for people who want to catch trains at Hampton Station to go to the city etc and to a lesser extent buses 708 and 828 to go to Southland etc and 922 to go to Southland or to St Kilda.

The objective from an environmental and city-wide point of view is to avoid the car trips to the city but from a local point of view it is also to allow more parking spaces in the local streets for Hampton shoppers.

The council's report says the commuter car parking at Hampton Station was usually full by 8am and other commuters parked in nearby streets [or drove into the city]. I suspect that provision of an extra 100 car spaces per day is a drop in the ocean compared with what is needed by the commuters who live in the catchment area for Hampton Station. Therefore it is likely that the car park will not improve parking for the locals.

I didn't notice a detailed cost-benefit analysis of the proposal in the report. Here is a layman's attempt.

The funding available for the carpark will allow it to hold 100 cars. At about \$7 million this is a cost of \$70,000 per commuter or about \$2,000 per car per day for a year. The council's long term planning is for up to 2050 then if the lifespan of the carpark is about 30 years then the cost is about \$66 per car per day over 30 years, not including maintenance and servicing costs, which will be significant over 30 years.

The parking cost in a CBD Wilson multistorey park it is about \$28 per car per day on August 16th, 2021. But, you ask, what was the cost before Covid which has probably caused discounting? According to <https://www.savings.com.au/car-loans/australias-parking-costs-highest-in-the-world> an estimate of off street parking cost in the city in 2019 was \$29.71 USD or approximately \$37 AUD per car per day.

Therefore, to justify spending taxpayers' dollars for this facility we would need to charge the commuter a significant amount more than the going rate in the city.

I don't have the expertise to estimate the number of commutes that could be facilitated by other options such as a bus or mini-bus service/services for an equivalent cost, but I think it would be prudent to work on an estimate and then run a trial of such a service before deciding to go ahead with the carpark. As our IT infrastructure develops there may be opportunities to develop this service more on a needs basis or uber-like model than a fixed route.

Bayside residents may say we are getting \$4 million to build the carpark so don't worry about the costs. To this one could say firstly that the report says it will cost \$7.5 million so we may need to spend \$3.5 million of our own money.

Secondly, there is a lot of research around the world showing that extra carparks are not the long term solution. See <https://theconversation.com/au/topics/car-parking-4464> for a few articles on this.

Thirdly it is widely reported that the car park grants have not been decided on a needs basis

and I have read that the money would be better spent in other council areas such as the outer suburbs whose transport infrastructure is not as good as Bayside's.

Bayside residents and the Bayside councillors in particular would gain the respect of our fellow Melbournians, including other LGA councillors, if we didn't just build a carpark because we were given the money via a dodgy process. We might want the co-operation from other councils in the future and this would be a way to help our cause.

2. Ms Pauline Reynolds

It is essential for more people to use public transport for reasons that don't have to be listed here, which means, in some cases, users driving their cars to the nearest railway station which also means parking them somewhere. This all may change sooner than we can plan for because of the effects of climate change and now the Covid pandemic and what ever the next one will be, but in the meanwhile, more train user parking will be needed. The area outlined in this report is an obvious choice but a four storey building will have a huge impact on that space in an activity hub which has already changed the area nearly beyond recognition. I'm aware that putting some of a carpark below ground would be a considerable expense but would be worthwhile considering. As would a green roof and more landscaping to soften the appearance further.

Another concern is the railway crossing at Hampton Street which is dangerously congested at some times during peak hour. I'm not aware of plans to change that crossing but if there were, that would cause another major change to the whole street and area, after a very great deal of money has already been invested in the hub. It could also mean that parking accomodation could change dramatically.

At the risk of sounding parochial, and the report states that it is unlikely to occur, would it be easier or better or less intrusive to construct a new carpark behind Sandringham station? One that needn't be so dominantly tall? Personally, carparks anywhere are not a particular favourite specially at Sandringham, however I do think it's worth considering if it hasn't been already. The area behind Sandringham station since the trams stopped parking there in fact, in 1956 has been a bit of a wasted space and could look so much nicer even with some more trees for instance (see item 1 of this agenda).

Sincerely

Pauline Reynolds

Item 10.8
Integrated Transport Strategy 2018 –
Implementation Progress During
2020–21

1. Mr Fraser Gibson

REQUEST TO BE HEARD at BAYSIDE COUNCIL (zoom) MEETING 6.30pm 17th August 2021

By email 13.08.2021

I refer to Agenda item 10.8 INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2018 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS DURING 2020-21

Key issues point 7 Completed protected bicycle lanes feasibility study investigation within Bayside municipality study.

The study is the TRAFFIC WORKS report attached to the 16th February 2021 meeting Agenda.

That report is incomplete and erroneous insofar as the Cheltenham to Sandringham Shared Use Paths (SUP's), shared zones and/or protected lanes for this strategic cycling corridor (SCC) connecting major Activity Centres.

The report is incomplete as it only considers part of the route from Park Road Cheltenham and some SUP's in George Street and Spring Street ending at Bluff Road. There is no mention of the paths in Bluff Road, Royal Ave and Fernhill Road to connect to Sandringham.

The report is erroneous in that it considers Protected Bicycle Lanes in Park Road. On road lanes would never be considered as the costs, road narrowing and parking loss make this unfeasible and unnecessary.

As advised to Councillors, the Director of environment and infrastructure and transport sustainability managers multiple times the Southern side of Park Road, Tulip Street and Royal Avenue have reserves, golf courses and parks with wide easements next to the roads. This allows for SUP's to be built next to these roads at moderate costs and minimal environmental impact.

In some cases, widening the existing 1.5m footpath to 2.5 or 3m is all that is required.

Council Transport and Sustainability managers have expressed their support for a consultant's plan for the complete route with the optimum combination of SUP's, zones and protected lanes as necessary. Funds are in the 21/22 Budget for this express purpose.

Councillors can resolve that a Cheltenham to Sandringham route plan is required at the 17th August meeting and that a subsequent meeting reviews the plan and decides on issuing it for community consultation.

The INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY progress report can then be updated with the work commenced in 2020 and the commitment to continue planning work in 21/22 with construction 22/23.



Fraser Gibson CPEng (Ret)

CC Petitioners and Chelt.to Sandy supporters

Item 10.10

Uluru Statement from the Heart

1. Ms Pauline Reynolds

I support the recommendation of this report. To their eternal shame, the government of the day, didn't bother to even read this Uluru Statement from the Heart or has any since I wonder? It is a beautiful, concise piece which says everything it needs to say in so few words but was, and is still, ignored and many hearts have been broken and insulted further.

It would be ideal and perhaps a bigger statement if Bayside City Council writes to every other municipality in Australia outlining this recommendation and encouraging them all to do likewise?

Maybe that would start to make the change!

Sincerely

Pauline Reynolds

Item 10.12

**Response to petition and joint letter –
Melrose Street Sandringham spacelets**

1. Mr Erik Purcell

The petition to permanently retain the extended footpath trading areas and spacelets in Melrose Street and close off the Eastern end of Melrose Street Sandringham now has 519 signatures, demonstrating overwhelming community support for the permanent retention of the extended footpath trading areas and spacelets in Melrose Street. The on-going lockdown and associated enforced restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in the hospitality sector continuing to be severely impacted. Social distancing rules are likely to remain in place for the foreseeable future. The spacelets and outdoor dining areas have provided patrons with a safer dining experience and meets patrons demands and expectations. If they are to be removed, this will have a significant impact on my business and surrounding businesses in Sandringham, that have all benefitted from the increased foot traffic within the Village. If removed, patrons that have embraced outdoor dining will choose to go to other retail precincts where this option is provided, this will be catastrophic for my business and the Sandringham Village precinct.

2. Mrs Vicki Degrenis, Mr Ilias Degrenis & Mr Dimitri Degrenis

Dear Mayor & Councillors,

I am writing to advocate for the continued use of the spacelets and plea to keep them past the end of August.

These spacelets literally are our last hope of remaining viable and not close our doors to a community and patrons who have embraced us. We had been trading for only 11 months when the pandemic shockwave hit us and so many others.

The stop start nature of 2021 and particularly lockdowns 5 & 6 has us facing what we thought was a battle we could come out from on the other side and say we made it. We wont give up, there are 11 staff here that we will fight tooth and nail for.

Undoubtedly we will come out of lockdown as we have many times before, but each and every time there is a density limit which allows to trade at only 30% of our capacity. We must adhere to the Government health advice for the safety and health of each and every one of us. This is where we now face the reality and look toward the warmer months not so far ahead and the need to retain those spacelets is extremely detrimental for everyone not just us alone.

Studies and research have proven that outdoor dining space enhances community togetherness & engagement. In hindsight I would have taken every person who not only dined or wined at the spacelets in Melrose St but every passer by from surrounding suburbs or those who were visiting Sandringham beach from all over Melbourne via the train station and stopped and experienced our beautiful village rather than get back on the train to find somewhere else to stay out in Summer. Lets not forget the pet owners who were now able to bring their extended family members and dine with them at their side. Our point is not just the economical factor and our last hope of surviving, the social impact is just as great, and we believe that wholeheartedly.

We have listened to those who say we are not using them during winter, if we knew the spacelets were to remain permanently we would invest in making them fully functional for the biggest challenge being the weather and theyd be up and running rain, hail or shine.

When reaching a resolution, we ask that you please consider in allowing us to retain the 2 spacelets directly in front of Ammos. Its all we have left.

Yours Sincerely

Vicki Degrenis, Ilias Degrenis & Dimitri Degrenis
Ammos Greek Tavern & Staff