

WRITTEN STATEMENTS

15 February 2022

COUNCIL

MEETING

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Item 10.1

Bayside Urban Forest Strategy 2022–40

1. Dr Vicki Karalis (on behalf of Sandringham Foreshore Association)

Thank you to Bayside City Council for the excellent reports for this item.

SFA and its members, wholeheartedly and strongly support the Urban Bayside Forest Strategy. In view of Climate change and the known harmful effects of heat on human health, we request that the forest strategy be implemented in Bayside urgently as a matter of priority, as soon as the weather is appropriate to do so.

SFA have advocated for planting native trees and vegetation in all open spaces such as Royal Ave and Dendy St park for several years now. We ask that this is actively pursued as a matter of urgency.

Vegetation can be planted in small islands, and protected with temporary fencing from dogs. Open spaces eg open grassed areas is not good for the soil, and the heat makes it difficult for young trees and plants to grow.

The known benefits of trees to human health and the environment is enormous - they provide us clean air, filter pollution, trap allergens, provide shade, keep us cool in summer, reduces heat island effects, and improves landscape. They are also important for biodiversity.

Please Council, urgently explore opportunities for pocket parks, micro-forests and habitat corridors throughout Bayside as a matter of urgency, and protect as many trees as possible eg from developers who remove mature trees. With rising temperatures in the future, the ability to grow and sustain plants will be harder.

Thank you!

2. Mrs Sue Forster

Noted Support for Recommendation.

3. Ms Pauline Reynolds

Urban Forest Strategy item 10.1 BCC Feb 15 2022

- a planning scheme amendment to implement the Strategy into the Bayside Planning Scheme
- preparation of suburb based Urban Forest Precinct Plans, guiding the outcomes from the Urban Forest Strategy at a local level
- ensure the delivery of a minimum of 2,200 trees per annum
- investigate opportunities for new open space to create new pocket parks and green spaces
- completion of the Park Improvement and Habitat Linkage Plan
- increasing species diversity in the vegetation planted by Council
- review the Bayside Landscape Guidelines
- investigating the health of trees and the effectiveness of Tree Protection Zones.

Comments re Bayside Meeting 15th Feb 22

Just reiterating that the three agenda items 10.1, 10.7 and 10.8 are all overlapping or interwoven.

I support the recommendation and the points above but the third one needs clarification...

I think the word delivery means planting.

The report mentions planting not only trees but under-storey which I think should be mentioned here. (This intention is supportive of the resolutions in the other two agenda items also).

Can it include other smaller species needed to create the ideal habitat?

Any planting must be cared for after planting otherwise some species will struggle to survive and care must be taken to ensure that species are planted in areas which will give the optimal opportunity for the plant to thrive. For example swamp species in the damper areas and coastal species on the foreshore.

The report mentions community tree planting days many of which we've had in the past with different degrees of survival success. These events are difficult to manage with the care the participants need to take. More, but smaller, events could be more successful.

Bayside has very few indigenous trees and not many of those are actually ideal for street tree planting. Perhaps other suitable “native” trees could be considered also. I’m also aware that with overhead power lines and size of trees at maturity and root problems and so on, the choice of trees is quite difficult. But some of the exotic trees used in the past should definitely be avoided. The noisy miner study emphasises that the extensive use of eucalypts, particularly without appropriate understorey, exacerbates the proliferation of the pest birds.

The Community Nursery is required to supply some street trees and of course many shrubs and smaller plants for use by the council both for horticulture and for bushland and foreshore. It has been extremely difficult over these last two years for the nursery to fulfill its contractual obligations with so many months without volunteers either to contribute at the nursery with propagation and sales, or to assist with planting and other maintenance work in the reserves. I don’t really know how the nursery staff has managed to supply plants for all the needs, but it has.

If council requires the nursery to produce more plants for the Urban Forest, the three main things to consider are ...

The first and really the most important or vital one being supply of the plant materials ie seeds and cuttings to enable propagation.

There is a finite supply. The existing reserves and foreshore cannot be pillaged to supply vegetation for elsewhere. They will inevitably suffer and decline. In a drought for instance the plants don’t grow or flower to set seed. A great example of robbing Peter to pay Paul. There could be more “mother stock” areas created but they take time to mature and suitable quite large areas of open space have to be found. Of course more planting in parks and so on creates “mother stock” areas but there has to be control over the source of the original planting.

If council is successful in the establishment of a new park in Wangara Road, that could be an ideal place for a properly managed “mother stock” area.

If the council requires the nursery to produce more plants, it will have to have more space and in the right location. It is possible to make some extra space at the nursery if there was a bit of reorganisation, and adjustment to the watering capacity.

If the council requires the nursery to produce more plants another need would be for more staff not just as happens now, the odd day where all the bushland crew comes in to help or where the apprentices work there for a month at a time.

Something that Covid has made quite clear also is that it is not possible to rely on volunteers under pandemic circumstances however willing, which means that the small mother stock area on the Sandringham Golf Links for instance has become neglected which is a shame.

In conclusion, the planting of more vegetation towards an Urban Forest is something to be supported but needs to be managed carefully over time.

The sensitive choice of species to suit the different personalities of the municipality is crucial.

The public should be involved wherever possible so that everyone is brought along with the project and not feeling that something they don't want is being imposed upon them and that they are encouraged look after and value the new plantings. Their support is what will make this a success.

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

Dear Councillors,

As you would be aware, the Pennydale Residents Action Group (Inc) (PRAG) has been a staunch supporter of the Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) since its inception. We believe that together with the Declaration of a Climate Emergency and other policies, this Strategy is vital to the long term liveability of Bayside and its residents.

When Council first released its Strategy details in August last year PRAG put in a request to be heard for that item (also 10.1) which detailed our support for the Strategy, but also our concerns on some of the apparent shortcomings, especially those related directly to the Pennydale neighbourhood of Cheltenham. Upon reading the agenda for tonight's meeting, whilst we are definitely heartened by the progress made to date, we are still left quite concerned over a number of issues and how they affect Pennydale specifically, and as such I write tonight to express our concerns and ask that you please take these into consideration when discussing and voting upon the item.

Whilst we are of course very proud of our area as anyone would be, looking down on the Draft Strategy from outside we can see that Pennydale – when it comes to this Strategy – is UNIQUE, and it is this uniqueness that is the cause of our concerns. In our submission to the Draft Strategy, we asked for several things with 2 of the most important being items we think are easily agreed upon and extremely important, and they are that the Pennydale residential area be looked at individually, and that Pennydale be treated separately to Cheltenham Bayside (Cheltenham) as a whole, and we explained the reasoning for this as clearly as we could and included graphics to make it easier. If you have the time, I would request that you revisit that submission including its graphics to assist you here. Officers will have it on hand. Unfortunately, both of these requests were knocked back by Officers.

Basically, Officers wish to look at each SUBURB and set up a precinct for each suburb and write a plan of action to cover the entire suburb. For most of Bayside's suburbs, this will not be an issue. Hampton, Hampton East, Sandringham and Highett are for the most part mostly residential. Each suburb of course has SOME open space and areas apart from homes such as schools, shopping strips etc, but for the most part, they are residential. Brighton, Brighton East, Black Rock and Beaumaris have SOME larger open space areas such as golf courses or large parks, but again the overwhelming majority of its area is homes – residential areas. This means that the canopy coverage shown in Figure 1 Suburb wide Tree Canopy Cover in 2014 and 2018 on page 14 of the Strategy documentation (see image below) is showing coverage within the residential areas. This is important. Only Cheltenham is different with approx. 47% of its area being open space including 3 golf courses, 1 major park, 2 large parks, 2 cemeteries, a school with its own sanctuary area, plus approx. 21% of its area being the Bayside Business District (BBD), and therefore leaving only approx. 32% - less than 1/3 of the area – being homes. This means that the figures shown for Cheltenham in Figure 1 are NOT just for the residential areas, but INCLUDE all of the other areas as well. If you REMOVE

those other highly trees areas, it is clear that Pennydale MUST have a far lower percentage cover than the supplied figures. Cheltenham by itself is UNIQUE amongst the other suburbs and this also needs to be looked at completely differently than the other suburbs.

Whilst Cheltenham is unique amongst the other suburbs, the Pennydale neighbourhood of Cheltenham is again UNIQUE within not only Cheltenham, but from ALL OTHER residential areas in the rest of Bayside as well. Please take a look at the attached map page supplied below to see visually what I wish to explain.

Cheltenham is a place of 2 worlds. The LOWER half of the suburb South of Park Road and Cheltenham Road is protected by DPO's. This INCLUDES part of the residential area of Cheltenham along both Charman Road and Weatherall Road. In these residential areas, being covered by DPO's, it is much harder to remove trees and as such the canopy coverage in these areas is much more significant than in Pennydale where trees are removed more easily. This lower part of Cheltenham also contains 3 golf courses and a major park (Cheltenham Park), 2 large parks (Cheltenham Recreation Reserve and Shipston Reserve), Cheltenham Primary School (complete with its own private large sanctuary), with all of these areas ADDING canopy coverage. The UPPER half of the suburb North of Park Road and Cheltenham Road is COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. Firstly, as there is no DPOs in this part of Cheltenham, trees are removed way too easily and often, and a lot of the time without permit. Secondly, the Northern area also contains a MAJORITY of the BBD. A quick look at Map 1 on page 13 of the Draft Strategy document (see image below) will show the area to be nearly DEVOID of canopy coverage. This is a large part of the issue and this is a MASSIVE HEAT ISLAND that CONSTANTLY directly affects Pennydale. Right in the MIDDLE of the BBD is the New Cheltenham Cemetery which is ALSO nearly devoid of canopy coverage making for a HUGE area that attracts and holds heat. Lastly, you have the residential areas of Pennydale, and the Mirvac Jack Road estate. Immediately you can SEE how Cheltenham is COMPLETELY DIFFERENT from the rest of Bayside and needs to be TREATED differently to the rest of Bayside as well.

Unfortunately it gets worse for Pennydale. We ALSO suffer from a MASSIVE heat island that is Southland Shopping Centre and the Nepean Highway and Charman Road commercial areas. Pennydale is sandwiched in between them both, and we feel it every day. When we have Westerly winds, it picks up the heat from the BBD and brings it to Pennydale. When we have Easterly winds, it picks up the heat from Southland and brings it Pennydale. Either way, the winds bring a lot of heat to Pennydale, and our ground temperatures are regularly higher than other Bayside suburbs. NO OTHER Suburb in Bayside suffers from heat island effects like Pennydale does – in fact the beachside suburbs are actually much better due to the direct proximity to the bay. Whilst the heat island effects do a lot of damage, they are exacerbated by our low and falling canopy coverage. And the situation is getting worse. The Mirvac Jack Road estate is different to Pennydale as not only is it much smaller, it was DESIGNED as a box with a park in the middle and the entire estate was planted with a HUGE amount of fast growing trees. So it comes down to Pennydale, and we are alone.

In our initial submission, we asked for those 2 items to be included – that a separate figure be calculated and released JUST for Pennydale, and that Pennydale be treated SEPERATLY to the rest of Cheltenham. Based upon the detail above, it is CLEAR that BOTH of these requests NEED to be approved. It is CLEAR that Pennydale is UNIQUE in its issues in all of Bayside and as such it needs to be TREATED in a unique way, NOT simply being lumbered in with the rest of Cheltenham, which has its own issues. Officers advise that they really don't want Pennydale to be separated out. This might look bad. It might look preferential. I don't think that is the case. It should be easy for anyone to see WHY separating Pennydale out would be needed and preferable, and I don't think there would be anyone in Bayside that would not see reason here. Officers say they will treat each Suburb as a Precinct and will make overarching decisions based upon the entire precinct. They do however say they CAN drill down to a single street, and work on that, but we argue that under the circumstances detailed above, this would make little or no difference at all and the BEST way would be for Pennydale to be in its OWN Precinct INSIDE the Cheltenham one.

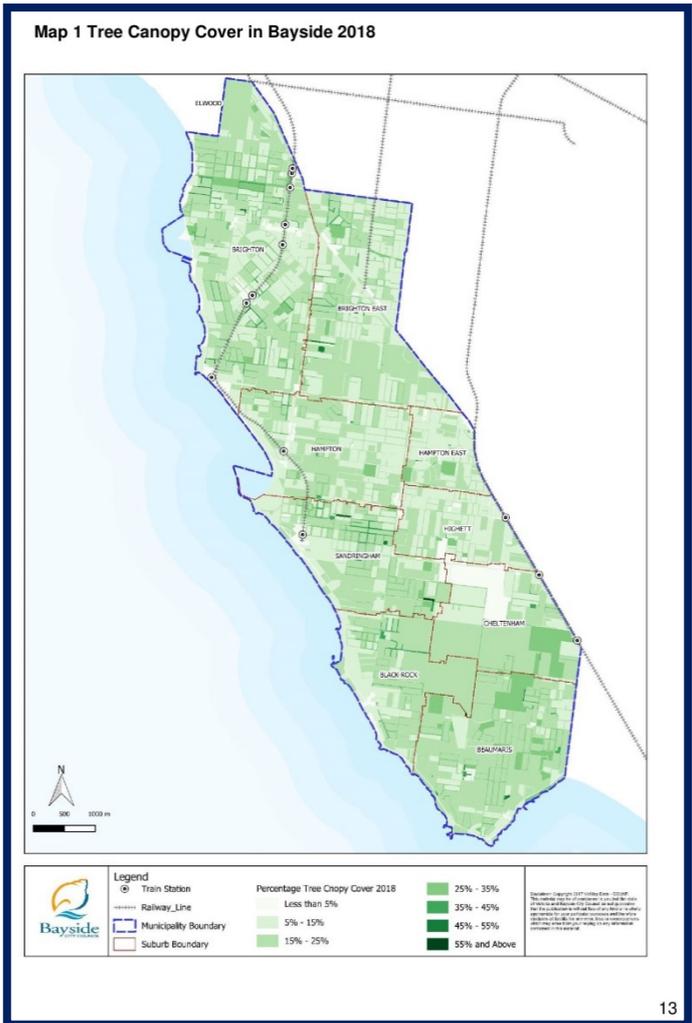
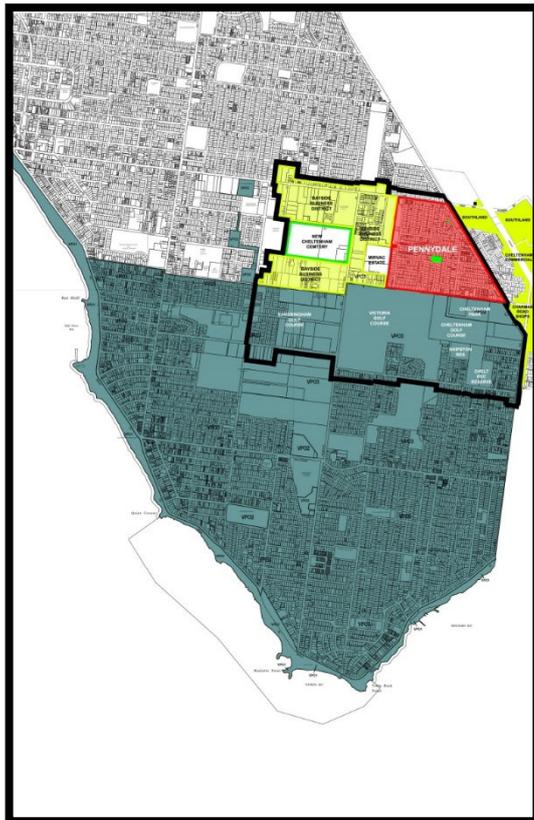
A further example of WHY Pennydale can and needs to be separated out is because we are NOT the only problem like this. Whilst the MAJORITY of the BBD is in Cheltenham, it DOES also cross the suburb boundary and SOME of the BBD is also in Sandringham. With the map as described CLEARLY showing the BBD as in SERIOUS NEED of immediate greening, whether it be the majority of it in Cheltenham or the smaller part in Sandringham, surely the BBD ALSO needs to be treated SEPERATELY from Cheltenham as a whole. It makes no sense otherwise. If the BBD gets to be treated differently, then there is no reason why Pennydale could not also. Under the circumstances, the BBD MUST be treated separately, and so MUST Pennydale.

We do not believe we are asking too much in this instance. The details are clear as to why Pennydale needs its own treatment. It is up to you Councillors to make this happen, or not make this happen. What we can say is that if Pennydale falls down, with heat islands on either side, we will become a part of the heat island issues and the Southerly winds will end up picking up the heat from one huge heat island and it WILL start to affect Beaumaris and Black Rock.

The Urban Forest Strategy is a wonderful policy and we are behind it nonetheless, but we WANT to make it BETTER, and we NEED to make it better whilst we can, because coming back to fix it later on is likely not going to be possible. The changes we have requested will HELP not only Pennydale, but the entire Strategy as well, and as such, the rest of Bayside too. We also need to ensure that the Strategy looks after the areas of MOST NEED AS A PRIORITY. This is VITAL as these areas are going to be the hardest to get heading in the right direction. Pennydale needs to be one of these priority areas.

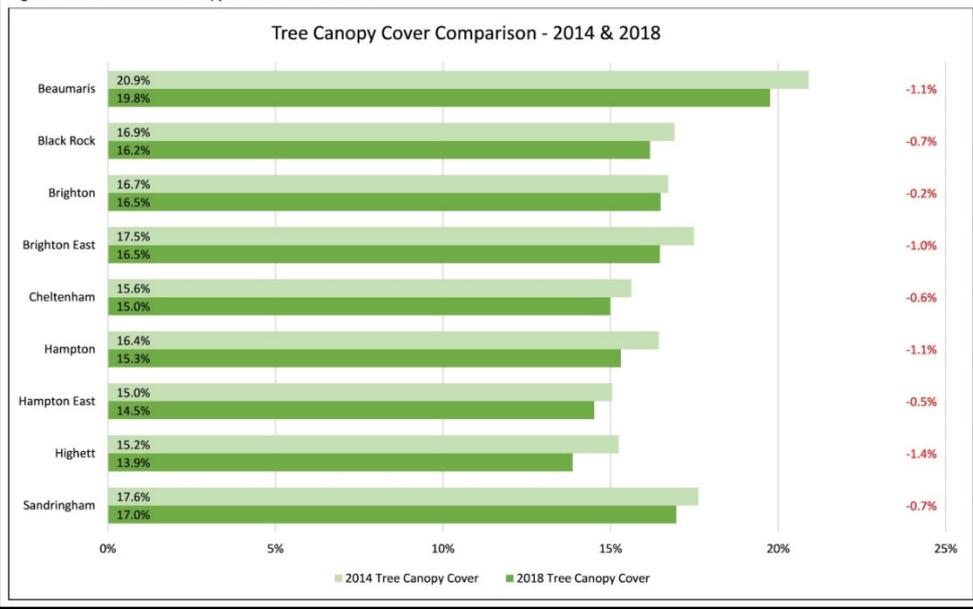
Thank you for your time and effort as always, and thank you to the Officers who have come up with a wonderful Strategy that WILL make a huge difference to Bayside.

Derek Screen
President, Pennydale Residents Action Group (Inc)



By utilising the State Government tree and vegetation canopy cover data from 2018, Council's GIS team was able to analyse and approximate the tree canopy cover per suburb and compare this to the tree canopy cover in 2014. The data identifies a slight decline in tree canopy cover, with the biggest changes being felt in Highett, Hampton, Beaumaris, and Brighton East.

Figure 1: Suburb wide Tree Canopy Cover in 2014 and 2018



5. Ms Sally Eldridge (on behalf of Friends of Native Wildlife Inc.)

The Friends of Native Wildlife Committee congratulate Council on the development of a comprehensive Urban Forest Strategy and the consultative approach undertaken.

We strongly support all the directions. In particular, we support the recognition of the contribution of understorey vegetation to the strategy's key objectives.

There are two aspects to the strategy which require further consideration, however.

Compliance with TPZ's

We believe that the strategy may not have addressed an issue of concern which is ensuring that Tree Protection Zones on private land are properly protected during construction. The Strategy only refers to TPZ's for Council's street trees. For trees on private land, maintenance of Tree Protection Zones, even when a condition of permit, is frequently ignored during construction.

We therefore recommend that the strategy include compliance and enforcement of Tree Protection Zones on private land. This, we believe, will ensure greater tree longevity and maintenance of the Urban Forest.

Vegetation Character Assessment Timing

We support the identification of Significant Trees for the Significant Tree Register through a Vegetation Character Assessment. We suggest that the assessment phase be commenced as soon as possible in 2022 (rather than the proposed 2023) to reduce the possibility of pre-emptive tree removals.

Item 10.2
Draft Bayside Parklet Policy

1. Mr Erik Purcell

I am the owner and operator of Sidebar, and have had a direct benefit from the spacelet located at the front of my business premises at 39 Melrose Street, Sandringham.

I thank Council for undertaking the engagement program of community consultation in relation to the spacelet program.

The purpose of the engagement program was for Council to gain an understanding of the community views in relation to the spacelet program. The findings of the community consultation summarised in the executive summary, support what had been known from observations that the spacelets are overwhelmingly considered by the community as having a positive impact. Key findings include:

- The Have Your Say page showed 92% of participants believe spacelets have a positive impact. At paragraph 6.1.2 of Bayside Spacelet Survey 2021 – Face-to-Face Community Engagement Summary, Attachment 1 to the draft Bayside Parklet Policy, it is reported that 100% of Bayside residents surveyed (Brighton, Cheltenham, Hampton, and Sandringham) believed that the spacelets had a positive impact on the major activity centres.
- The face-to-face survey show 83.8% of participants believe spacelets have a positive impact.
- The independent evaluation of the program carried out by SALT reports as a key finding that “the removal of carparking spaces is supported as it creates opportunity for greater revenue for local businesses and hence overall viability of activity centres. With the long-term installation of parklets, residents would be encouraged to walk to activity centres, and they are more likely to spend more.” This has been the experience of Sidebar with increased patronage, and increased turnover as a direct consequence of the extended outdoor dining provided by having the spacelet. This has been critical to the viability of Sidebar in the “new COVID world”. Sidebar only has a small indoor footprint and patrons have demonstrated a clear preference for dining outside. Any implemented Bayside Parklet Policy cannot discriminate across the different municipalities and, if adopted, must be rolled out across all Bayside major activity centres.

I do note that it has been reported that Sandringham traders have the highest dissatisfaction rate with the spacelets. It is noted that in the review of Bayside City Council’s Parklet Program (Attachment 2) it is reported that 13 responses were received from Sandringham traders. There are 121 businesses within Sandringham Village. Clearly those businesses not expressing disapproval of the parklets, desire the status quo to continue.

The spacelets have been in situ since September 2020. The spacelets have been accepted throughout this time by the community and by the overwhelming majority of businesses as having a positive impact. If businesses did not support the continuation of the spacelets and wanted the removal of the spacelets, they would have expressed this as part of the consultation process. By not having done this it is clear that the majority of Sandringham businesses want the status quo to continue, that is, the retention of the

spacelets.

I am proud that Sidebar is reported as the second highest visited spacelet (refer diagram 9 of Attachment 2). If you consider that Sidebar only utilises "1" carpark as a spacelet, on a square metre basis Sidebar is, by a long way, the reported most visited spacelet in Bayside. It is also useful to note that the 3 businesses that have the benefit of the spacelets in Melrose Street, Sandringham, being Sidebar, Hobsons, and Ammos, are all in the top 50% of reported most visited spacelets across Bayside. This is clear evidence of the community support for the spacelets in Melrose Street to continue.

Furthermore, in 2021, Sidebar conducted a petition for the permanent retention of existing spacelets in Melrose Street, and the partial closure of Melrose Street to traffic, to thereby create public open space. This petition was referenced in the Council meeting dated 15 June 2021 at item 7.2 in the Agenda with 91 signatures in support of the permanent retention of spacelets in Melrose Street, and the partial closure of Melrose Street. Over the following two weeks, Sidebar continued to collect signatures from patrons that attended Sidebar, amassing an additional 428 signatures. A letter was circulated to Councillors and members of the Economic Development Team on 1 July 2021 providing the petition with a total of 519 signatures.

There is a clear community desire for the spacelets to be retained on a permanent basis, and to see an increase in public open space in Sandringham Activity Centre. This is both evidenced in the commissioned report by SALT, the community consultation process and the independent petition run by Sidebar.

I have no objection to the proposed draft Council Policy at Attachment 4 and the process set out in the Policy of requiring businesses to apply for a permit for a parklet. I have no objection, as a business directly benefiting from the parklet, to the proposed permit types and fees. I consider it important that businesses have the ability to have custom designed the structures for the spacelets and I am excited by the prospect of a bespoke design structure for the spacelet out the front of Sidebar that will enhance the amenity of what is a high-profile location on the corner of Melrose Street and Station Street directly opposite Sandringham Station.

Kind Regards,
Erik Purcell
Director
Sidebar, 39 Melrose Street, Sandringham.

2. Mr Ray Purcell

I am the principal of KPA Lawyers operating from ground floor, 37 Melrose Street, Sandringham.

I reside at Level 1, 37 Melrose Street, Sandringham.

I have visited the spacelets within the Major Activity Centres of Sandringham, Hampton, Bay Street Brighton, Church Street Brighton, Spink Street Brighton, Black Rock and Cheltenham.

The parklet/spacelet assigned to the business - Sidebar, straddles the frontage of Sidebar and KPA Lawyers. It is one car park only.

I have consented to Sidebar using the spacelet for trading and consent to the continuing use by Sidebar of the assigned spacelet.

I support Council adopting the draft Bayside Parklet Policy in the form - Attachment 4.

I note the content of the attachments to the Agenda Item including Attachment 3 - Parklet Analysis Report prepared for Bayside City Council by SALT. The Community Consultation Engagement Program showed a high level of community support for the spacelet program and for its continuation.

SALT's research and analysis, identifies that when considering economic factors, the parklets:

- have a positive impact on individual businesses;
- create additional employment;
- attract more trips to activity centres to enjoy outdoor dining;
- flow onto increased spending at other businesses in activity centres.

SALT concludes that due to strong community support, the additional vitality and economic stimulus that parklet spaces provide to retail precincts, further consultation for a new permanent parklet program is recommended.

As a resident and business operator in Melrose Street, Sandringham I have observed first hand:

- the community support for the parklets;
- the increased foot traffic and visitation to Sandringham Village;
- the positive impact on my business and other businesses in Sandringham Village Major Activity Centre;

I support a permanent parklet program being implemented for all Major Activity Centres within the City of Bayside.

3. Dr Vicki Karalis (on behalf of Sandringham Foreshore Association)

The Sandringham Foreshore Association and its members would like to provide our full support for this item, and ask that Council actively organise appropriate spacelets and parklets into the areas proposed in Bayside.

There are a few points to consider in support of this item:

1. Parklets help create a buzzing, vibrant community such as the Oakleigh mall
2. Parklets help support our local businesses such as restaurants and cafes
3. Parklets help reduce the number of parking spots which is of benefit - less vehicles that idle near eating and drinking areas, the better. Vehicles emit harmful exhaust fumes that are dangerous to human health, especially when vehicles leave their engines on, or park next to people sitting in outdoor areas. The fumes are toxic and foul smelling, and can aggravate respiratory problems.
4. Please consider solid barriers for parklets - not picket fences - as the solid structures act as good windbreakers and allow for vegetation and plants to be planted. They are more visually appealing, offer greater privacy and keeps us warm when sheltered from winds. There are many beautiful examples of solid parklets eg in front of restaurants and cafes on Domain St in South Yarra.

Thank you for supporting this item on the agenda.

4. Mr Jonathan Sherren

Dear Councillors,

I would like to support the recommendations of the Bayside Parklet Policy.

I am resident in Bayside of 47 years and also a small business owner with three venues in the City of Bayside and employ 150 staff that live in and around the City of Bayside. I am also the President of the Bay Street Traders Association.

I also occupy two Parklets within the City of Bayside presently.

The Parklets are a lifesaving idea and have really helped businesses like mine get through COVID. And with COVID still around and capacity limits still in force I think the recommendations to continue this program is terrific news.

Venues in the City of Bayside compete with venues in municipalities very close to us like the City of Port Phillip and Kingston, and with these areas also extending their programs it is of vital importance we extend of program. This allows us to be able to compete on an even basis and keep jobs and people in the City of Bayside.

I think it is important to treat every trading area differently.

For example a street like Bay Street Brighton needs the vibrancy that these parklets bring and do not have the parking problems like other activity centres in the City of Bayside.

Bay Street in Brighton needs these Parklets. We have always lacked the vibrancy that the Parklets deliver. The change in the environment on the street since these Parklets have been installed cannot be under estimated. As you can see from the feedback received they are very well received and parking in Bay Street Brighton is not a problem.

It should also be noted that the Parklets are not just utilised in the warmer months. We have noticed they are used all year round which is very positive.

I commend the council of their recommendations and support the motion to continue this program for the benefit of the residents, traders and community.

Jonathan Sherren

Hotel Brighton 286 Bay Street, Brighton
The Deck 212 Bay Street, Brighton
True South 298 Beach Road, Black Rock

5. Mr James Salem

I support the spacelet program to continue permanently.

6. Mr Evan and Mrs Jane Packer

We are the owners and operators of Paperboy Coffee, 370 Hampton St Hampton

We currently have the only 'parklets' allocated to a Hampton Street business. We appreciate the support from Bayside Council and the Victoria Government for the funding and provision of this space as it has assisted to keep our business viable and to employ additional staff during throughout the COVID pandemic.

We support most aspects of the proposed 'Parklet Policy (2022)'. However, we are concerned with some elements of the proposal and would like Council to consider the following issues:

Life of existing structures:

The current structures are close to end of life, but still have 6-12 months life in their current form. They are not falling apart or ready for the tip. To simply demolish and send to the tip several tonnes of timber is not a good for the environment or the community. There is a well known timber shortage in the world, and Council should continue to allow the existing structures remain until a suitable alternative can be built. Consideration should be given to what to do with the current timber frames when and if they are demolished.

Proposed Permit Fee:

The proposed of \$500 month / \$6k per year rent & maintenance fee appears to be the highest fee in Metropolitan Melbourne. If this fee is approved, it will make some parklets unviable. Council should probably explain why Bayside has the highest fees when other Councils are charging substantially less.

Council's calculations are for 4 tables and 16 chairs per spacelet. If this configuration is used, tables will be very close together and no social distancing will be possible. We believe 3 tables and 12 chairs per parklet is probably closer to the reality when taking into account access/egress, bollards and other factors.

Council should possibly consider the disparity between the many businesses in Bayside which have benefitted from Council removal of parking spaces in previous years with no charges (ie The Pantry, Dendy Deli) and the new process of ongoing charges 'forever' for newer businesses doing a similar thing.

Maintenance Costs:

Council states they are currently paying \$500 per month/ \$6k per year for inspections and cleaning per parklet. Over the past 12 months we have never seen anyone inspect or clean our parklet. We regularly pressure clean the parklet, clear the street gutter and do minor maintenance. It is an obscene amount of funds Council is currently paying for what must be a drive by service as NOTHING has ever been performed by a contractor on our spacelet other than trying to move a concrete bollard into the correct position back in the first few days of installation in 2020.

The proposal to continue to charge this excessive rate of \$6k per year is quite ridiculous and bears no value to Council or traders – only the Contractor involved. There must be a

more viable option for all parties.

Speed limits:

Council proposes parklets on roads with 50km/h or less speed limit. Hampton Street is 60km/h between 10pm and 7am daily, so this would completely disallow parklets in Hampton Street – even though Council officers have proposed a maximum of 27 parklets in Hampton Street. Surely this is an error as VicRoads has approved the parklet at 370 Hampton Street.

Thank you for considering our views.
Evan and Jane Packer

Item 10.3

Draft Footpath Trading Policy 2022–25

1. Mr Evan Packer

Good policy review

Please consider the following:

Umbrellas at 2.4 metres are ergonomically not viable, and not an 'off the shelf' product. They would need to be custom made. Staff cannot put them up or down without a ladder or step. All umbrellas in Bayside will need to be replaced if this policy is approved.

Removal of furniture via a 30km wind forecast is not viable. Where does the furniture get stored if the business is trading? What if the wind isn't during trading hours? Where is the measurement taken - there is no wind measurement station in Hampton. Who will monitor and how?

There is no mention in the policy about how it links to the Parklet Policy and the overlapping issues.

Thank you, Evan Packer

Item 10.4
Proposed Amendment to Council
Resolution Regarding Outcomes of
Community Engagement
- Wilson Recreation Reserve - Brighton
Grammar School Proposal

1. Mr Ross Featherston (on behalf of Brighton Grammar School)

As Headmaster of the school I support the amended proposal particularly for increasing the usage for matches on Saturdays.

2. Mr David Brewer

I strongly reject Brighton Grammar School attempt to overturn the 100% carried motion at the council meeting of 17 Aug 21 agreeing to BGS Saturday one only rugby match and two training sessions per week & no student over flow at recess or lunchtime, effectively providing an additional class room to BGS on Wilson Reserve. I note that BGS has been asked to help pay for ground maintenance to cover their one match per Saturday which they have rejected with a threat of needing to move elsewhere to meet their needs. This is agreed and is in accordance with general schools standard practice, when a school has insufficient sports ground suitable hiring is made using school bus services. The school would then have no problems with ground condition and Bay side community would again regain full use of their scarce community space needed by a growing population. In conclusion I agree with the 12 points agreed at the 17 Aug meeting and state that it is outrageous that BGS is now asking Council to disregard their decision in August 21 taken after very comprehensive community consultation.

3. Mr Kevin Howard

Dear Councillors,

The community spoke on this matter just six months ago and made it clear to Council that Wilson Recreation Reserve (WRR) is an increasingly important public open space asset, which should be preserved for casual public use, rather than allowing a private school to book or reserve the space for their exclusive use.

Yet here we are with Council Officers suggesting that we extend the time that BGS use the reserve and effectively increase the time that the public are excluded from using WRR every Saturday during winter. It seems that the Council Officers do not have the best interests of residents and rate payers at heart.

It's also disappointing that Council officers have put some sort of proposal to Brighton Grammar School (BGS) which seeks to trade increased exclusive access to this PUBLIC OPEN SPACE in return for BGS paying extra money towards increased maintenance and upgrade of the reserve.

This sets a terrible precedent; that PUBLIC open space assets are effectively for sale to private interests who are prepared to pay a bit more money. Let's not forget, it is ONLY BGS who require the reserve to be upgraded and maintained to a higher standard. The general public and rate payers do not need an improved playing surface.

The Officer's report in the agenda item says;

"BGS have advised Council that restricting usage to one match per week would not be feasible and would require BGS to source another venue to play the multiple matches it is required to host each Saturday."

That would be a welcome outcome for many local residents. It's high time that Brighton Grammar acquired a new private facility of their own to play the multiple matches they are required to host each Saturday (as other private schools have done), and permanently cease using our public open space as an extension to their school.

Brighton's population density continues to increase and the finite open space provided by Wilson Recreation Reserve is increasingly important as a place for public casual recreation. Brighton Grammar's enrolments also continue to increase as they buy up adjacent private property and build further extensions to the school.

The tension between the public and private interests is only ever going to increase if BGS continue to use WRR into the future and continually seek to increase that usage.

4. Ms Katrina Fraser

I was absolutely appalled to learn that Brighton Grammar School (BGS) are attempting to amend the August 2021 resolution which reduced their 'historical' high level of use of a Wilson Recreation Reserve (WRR). This resolution was a worthy and just response to a widespread public outcry and outrage about the long term overuse of this reserve by a privileged, well resourced private school who must have capacity on their own extensive grounds for rugby games or could source other options. It seems incredulous that they are still wanting to schedule three rugby matches instead of one each Saturday in Winter. This effectively means that this public open space would not be available to local residents or the wider public on Saturdays during winter. Given the overwhelming public response calling for more access to parkland and green spaces this current proposal is offensive to say the least.

BGS should never be allowed to have the historical access to the park restored, that is, before school hours, recess, lunch, and after school hours as this deters others from using the reserve. Brighton's population density continues to increase and the finite open space provided by Wilson Recreation Reserve is increasingly important as a place for public casual recreation.

It clearly remains Bayside City Council (BCC) responsibility in all respects, to maintain WRR and not enter into any agreement with BGS in which they contribute financially towards the maintenance of the ground in return for BGS having their "historical usage" restored. BCC should not be forging any financial arrangement which privileges any private entity to a public space, let alone such a high level of use. Clearly, the maintenance of WRR is increased by the playing of rugby, a high intensity sport, which would result in heavy wear and tear on the turf. Surely, BGS can just play these games on their own pristine grounds or seek alternative options, rather than continue their apparent efforts to re-establish a monopoly on this reserve. The 'historical use' was widely criticised throughout last year's extensive community consultation and this amendment makes a mockery of the consultation process.

I strongly believe it is time that Brighton Grammar acquired a new private facility of their own to play sports if their existing grounds are unsuitable and permanently cease what appears to be the aspiration to have WRR as an extension of their school. I believe it is the role of BCC to protect our precious open spaces and this amendment should be rejected in whole.

5. Miss Dianne Anderson

I oppose BGS increasing their use of Wilson Recreation Reserve. There is very little public open space in the area and it needs to be available to the community, particularly on weekends. If BGS needs more facilities for sport, it should purchase these to service their fee paying students. Granting BGS greater access to the Reserve goes against what was decided on this issue by council previously and could be the thin edge of the wedge in an essentially private concern having increasing exclusive access to what is a precious community resource.

Item 10.5

**Outcomes from Community Engagement
on Defining Character in Bayside's
General Residential Zones**

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

Dear Councillors,

The Pennydale Residents Action Group (PRAG) is generally very happy with the progression so far of this policy under discussion and will continue to work with Council's Officers to ensure that the issues that Pennydale has pertaining to our Neighbourhood Character are understood and taken into consideration.

Whilst the work done so far is a great start and having these Neighbourhood Character Statements embedded into the Planning scheme in this new format will go a long way to them being able to be called upon to assist Officers and the community as well as developers from knowing exactly what is and is not allowed, they still have some way to go before they are ready for implementation.

For Pennydale, this means working with Officers to enshrine in the new Neighbourhood Character Statements the line that was included in ALL of the other Bayside Neighbourhood Character statements EXCEPT for the Pennydale one, that being to PROTECT the EXISTING canopy coverage, a line that for some reason was missed in only Pennydale's statement.

PRAG looks forward to working with Council to rectify this omission, and to assist Officers in helping to make these new definitions for Neighbourhood Character as best as we can possibly make than.

Thanks to the Councillors for their ongoing support, and thanks to the Officers for being available to discuss these issues and work with us.

Derek Screen

President, Pennydale Residents Action Group (Inc)

Item 10.7

**Response to Notice of Motion - 315 –
Wildlife-Friendly Gardens and Naturestrips**

1. Mrs Sue Forster

1. A key community resource described as 'readily available'—the publication *Live Bayside, Plant Bayside*—is out of print and unavailable. There appears to be no budget to reprint it. This was previously distributed through Bayside Community Plant Nursery, providing the community with precise, well-illustrated information about creating wildlife-friendly gardens. A PDF of an early edition can only be found by searching the book's title. This is unsatisfactory as the book's information has since been updated.

To ensure that this valuable information continues to be accessible to the community, I would like to recommend that Council considers:

- 1.1 an allocation of funds to print an updated version of the publication which might be sold for around \$10 through the Nursery. Profits could be reallocated for further print runs.
- 1.2 ensures that a PDF of the current, unavailable issue can be accessed through the Bayside Community Plant Nursery website link.

2. Contrary to the statement, current issues of *Banksia Bulletin* are also unavailable through the Nursery, as very few are now being printed and the main form of distribution is PDF on Council's website. If Council wishes to make *Banksia Bulletin* available to the Nursery for distribution, it will need to allocate a bigger print budget.

Much more could be done to promote this valuable publication, including its digital version, to a wider audience through regular links and promotions in other Bayside City Council publications and e-newsletters such as *Let's Talk Bayside*, *Sustainable Living* and *The Friendly Librarian at Bayside Council*.

Perhaps these suggestions could be incorporated into additional recommendations?

2. Ms Pauline Reynolds

Wildlife Friendly Gardens and Nature Strips. Item 10.7 Bayside Council Meeting.

Feb 2022

“ That Council receives a report to the February 2022 Council Meeting detailing a plan for Council to actively promote wildlife-friendly gardens, including consideration of:

1. promoting there is no longer a need for permits for indigenous plantings in nature strips
2. partnering with community groups to run a series of webinars on wildlife-friendly gardening
3. encouraging wildlife-friendly cat ownership, including cat containment, and information about the cat curfew
4. working with residents to create gardens that deter Noisy Miners and provide refuge for small native birds.”

This report crosses over with the Urban Forest Strategy and the Noisy Miners Project and the DAMP.

I support the recommendation. Items to consider though...

Support the idea of webinars to be run by relevant officers with the help of volunteers.

Much prefer indigenous planting on Nature Strips for habitat corridors rather than natives or exotics but some non indigenous planting, depending on the suburb, could be acceptable.

Gardens for Wildlife is to be supported again also, even though the project ceased some years ago because of the cost I believe. Volunteers were visiting private gardens and offering advice when requested. A few plants were given as encouragement.

The Banksia Bulletin needs more council support. Printing of it also ceased three years ago, again because of cost. It is offered on the Bayside web page now (hard to find) and the link is sent to people historically on the mailing list but many would have been lost because of not having email addresses. Could it be sent to everyone who receives Lets Talk Bayside or at least could there be a permanent notice or link in LTB to encourage bigger readership?

Part of the council resolution at the time the BB was stopped was that there would be some (how many? considering economies of scale), printed for the Nursery to give to people. There are visitors who are perhaps new customers who are interested and the Bulletin is sometimes their first introduction to Bayside’s natural environment. The report states that there are some BBs along with the Live Bayside Plant Bayside booklet

to give away at the nursery, but although we do have a few old (2018 and 2019) BBs left, we ran out of the LBPB booklets a couple of years ago and again there are no funds for a reprint. The information on the web is of a long out of date and sometimes incorrect booklet. There has been work done on a “reprint” and one thought is that if that was completed it too could go on the web.

It has been suggested by one of the nursery volunteers, that if council were to print a further edition of Live Bayside Plant Bayside that it could be sold at the nursery for a small amount such as \$10. It was a very nice and useful production and customers were often surprised to learn that it was free.

#Some of us volunteers initiated the Bushy Tales Bayside FB page and newsletter at the beginning of the pandemic. We have only 65 members but we send out approximately 400 monthly (near enough) newsletters now. Seven printed, because there are seven Friends without computer knowledge. Again we have no way of knowing how many people read it, it could be another means of communication. We deliberately kept it a private page so that council has no control but I don't think it is any way disrespectful of council.

The BB and LBPB could also be cross promoted in the Bayside Library eNewsletter and Sustainable Living Bayside eNewsletter.

The garden at the nursery, with some more help from the volunteers, could be a display garden. It is in fact to a degree, but we have not been able to care for it as well as it needs, during lockdown.

The indigenous garden at the Corporate Centre is growing and looking beautiful also but some of the plant selection was not ideal. It's the difficult situation of recognising that some of our plants are sensitive and like to grow in the right conditions for them and where they are comfortable. It's a great lesson for all gardeners and landscapers to learn.

##This work depends to a great degree on the ability of the Community Nursery to supply plants.

As this is also very much the case with the Urban Forest Strategy I'll discuss further there.

Another thought. From 2003 for the following 13 years I was involved in an “open garden day” which a team ran in aid of Family Life. It had to stop, sadly, for various reasons. We opened about 80 gardens across Bayside in that time, around 6 or 7 on the one day each year, and ranged from Cole Street in the north right to Sparks Street in the south always in close groups so people could walk from garden to garden. Everyone loved it. Although we able to persuade those people to open their gardens, we walked many streets and knocked on many doors to invite people to take part so we very lucky to have seen lots of gardens of all kinds of styles. Even though people declined, they were often pleased to show just us their gardens anyway. I recalled this while thinking of attracting particularly the little birds back to gardens. The N Miners have successfully and sadly evicted ALL the little birds from my garden which is predominantly, but not entirely, indigenous plants. But I remember how interesting it was to discover so many small native birds in the old exotic gardens of Brighton like Grovsnor Street and Normanby Street for instance. We opened a garden of an exquisite Victorian house in

Grovesnor Street which is quite traditional but contains some native vegetation. The possums are cared for with special housing but there are, or were, dogs. There are trees and a lovely mixed understorey with many little birds. I haven't visited for maybe 3 years so things can change. It would be interesting to visit again.

The point of this is that council should I think be aware of variations of taste and tradition which exists amongst residents across the suburbs and also that being too dogmatic about the vegetation species requirements even for nature strips could lead to a problem akin to the Heritage Controls protests.

Encourage rather than demand to begin with. Have more information at the nursery, corporate centre, libraries and more easily available in other areas like the council web site, which is quite difficult to navigate, with more photographs showing our plants and design.

Be proud and show it off!

It is essential for residents to understand the reasons, discussed earlier, for using indigenous plants: for people to give them a go and to discover and appreciate their subtle beauty.

Item 10.8
Response to Notice of Motion - 317
- Noisy Miner Project

1. Mrs Sue Forster

The options and preferences listed by the officer on page 235 are sensible. This is a complex issue. Due to the way that Noisy Miners function as communities, culling alone is unlikely to restore ecological balance in Bayside. (This has been demonstrated by the Indian Myna cull program, of which I have personal, somewhat distressing, experience.)

Item 10.11

**Extension of kerbside waste, recycling
and food and green waste
collection contracts**

1. Mr George Reynolds

Councillors, I am unsatisfied with the present contractor's performance.

I have been advised, in an answer to a question in Council, that a charge of \$94 for a trailer load of tree clippings, delivered directly to the waste depot, was a legitimate charge. It was stated to be "up to the contractor" to set the charges for direct delivery. We pay a levy, collected and dispensed by Council, to collect and dispose of the waste generated on our property. It is more than "double dipping" to charge a fee to a ratepayer to deliver the waste to the processing depot.

Councillors, you can surely find a different contractor; one who allows free disposal of waste from those who have already paid a disposal fee. Change the terms of the contract and go back to the tender stage.