

# Requests to be Heard

19 March 2024  
Council Meeting

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<b>Item 10.2</b>	<b>For (F) Against (A)</b>
<b>Submission to the Suburban Rail Loop Draft Precinct Vision for Cheltenham</b>	
<b>Requests to Speak</b>	
1. Mr Geoff Leigh	(A)
2. Ms Una Steele	(A)
3. Mr Andrew Hockley (for Highett Progress Association)	(F)
4. Mr Derek Screen (for Pennydale Residents Action Group)	(F)

<b>Item 10.6</b>	<b>For (F) Against (A)</b>
<b>Proposal for Council to rejoin the Municipal Association of Victoria</b>	
<b>Requests to Speak</b>	
1. Mr Geoff Leigh	(A)

<b>Item 10.10</b>	<b>For (F) Against (A)</b>
<b>2023–24 2nd Quarter Performance Report (October to December 2023)</b>	
<b>Written Statements</b>	
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1. Mr George Reynolds	(A)
2. Mr Andrew Hockley (for Highett Progress Association)	(F)
<b>Requests to Speak</b>	
1. Ms Kate Quennell	(A)
2. Mr George Reynolds	(A)

# **WRITTEN STATEMENTS**

Item 10.10		For (F)
2023–24 2nd Quarter Performance Report (October to December 2023)		Against (A)
1.	Mr George Reynolds	(A)
<p>.Bayside City Council.</p> <p>Council Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</p> <p>Submission to Item 10.10.      2023-24, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance Report.</p> <p>Councillors.</p> <p>The recommendation in the agenda item is that Council is advised to note the Performance report. This advice falls short of the requirement in s97(3) of the Local Government Act 2020 (The Act) that: “the second quarterly report of the year must contain a statement by the Chief Executive Officer as to whether a revised budget is, or may be, required”.</p> <p>The second quarter report fails to comply with the requirements of s97(2)(a) of The Act to “compare the actual and budgeted results to date”. It compares the actual result with an “amended budget”. The “amended budget” was made following revelations of budget difficulties in the quarter 1 report. The report revealed that \$24million of expenditure was being deferred to a later year, yet there was no need to change the revenue requirement.</p> <p>Section 94 (2) of the Local Government Act 2020 states: : “A Council must ensure that the budget gives effect to the Council Plan...”. As the approved budget was inadequate, Council staff unilaterally altered the Council Plan and prepared an “adjusted budget” to operate it by. The approved budget is no longer being followed.</p> <p>The Act (at s95(1(c)) provides for a revised budget to be prepared before a material change to the approved budget becomes effective. The budget revision must also be made following community engagement.</p> <p>Councillors, we look forward to a resolution from this meeting which will commence the budget process of approving a revised budget.</p> <p>George Reynolds. Ratepayer 296201.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">End of submission.      Filebccacc2q23254.</p>		

# Highett

## Progress Association

### To the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Bayside:

Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance Report notes that the work of implementing the Urban Forest Precincts is on track. However, at its meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Council agreed to identify priority sites for planting in Highett. We want to help keep this program on track to ensure Highett's canopy shortfall is addressed urgently. To support Council's decision, we conducted our own community consultation to identify actionable priorities among Highett residents and businesses.

We conducted an online survey from **March 5 to March 15, 2024**. We received completed surveys from **107** people in Highett and Hampton East over 10 days, a gratifying result compared to the 110 surveys received from across the municipality during Council's own 7-week consultation period.

#### What kind of trees does the community want to see planted in Highett?

We asked the community about their preference for tree types: the exotic versus native debate remains contentious for some.

Survey respondents were given the option of nominating either exotic, native or indigenous species as their preferred tree type, with examples that allowed them to make an informed choice.

More than three-quarters of all respondents preferred native or indigenous trees, with support for indigenous species falling just short of a majority of all respondents.

Exotic trees	Native trees	Indigenous trees
<b>26 (24%)</b>	<b>30 (28%)</b>	<b>51 (48%)</b>

#### Where are trees most urgently needed?

We asked survey respondents to nominate priority areas within Highett where tree planting should occur.

Of the 84 streets in Bayside Highett, 30 streets were nominated by respondents as being in urgent need of tree planting.

Street/location	Number of nominations
Graham Road	24
Highett Road shops and transport interchange	16
Highett Road	14
Bay Road	6
Donald Street	5
Worthing Road	4
Advantage Road	3
Albert Street	3
Middleton Street	3
Royalty Avenue	3
Wickham Road	3
Avoca Street	2
Jackson Road	2
James Avenue	2
Lyle Anderson Reserve	2
Peterson Reserve	2
Train Road Walkway	2
Beaumaris Parade	1
Cloyne Street	1
Danson Street	1
Henry Street	1
June Street	1
Lawson Parade	1
Loconda Parade	1
Maralber Road	1
Marchant Street	1
Morley Avenue	1
Peterson Street	1
Princess Street	1
Rupert Street	1
Telford Street	1
Tennyson Street	1

**What is the priority activity that residents want from Council?**

We asked residents to tell us what kind of planting programs would make the biggest difference in Highett.

Survey respondents were asked to rank 6 statements from 1 to 5 where 1 was strongly disagree, 2 was disagree, 3 was neutral, 4 was agree and 5 was strongly agree.

Individual scores for each question were summed and the aggregate score divided by the number of responses to derive an average score.

Activity	Average score (out of 5)
Council should start by planting new street trees on nature strips where there are no trees now.	4.5
Council should start by immediately replacing all dead and under-performing trees	4.1
Council should plant shrubs and grasses in our streetscapes to create a more welcoming neighbourhood character	4.1
Council should plant more trees in Highett's parks	3.7
Council should provide free trees to residents for planting on their own properties	3.3
Council should remove distorted trees from under power lines and plant smaller shrubs and trees	3.1

A difference of around 0.5 in a score should be regarded as a significant variation in sentiment. Planting new street trees on nature strips is the most strongly supported activity by a clear margin.

The removal of dead and underperforming trees, and the planting of shrubs and grasses in the streetscape were the next most strongly supported, but with significantly lower average scores.

The other three activities: park planting, free trees, and removing distorted trees under powerlines, each registered scores that suggest they are second-order priorities.

### Verbatim responses

The survey enabled respondents to provide detailed comments to flesh out their response. One third of respondents provided a comment and they are compiled below, unedited.

Each of these comments is taken verbatim from individual survey responses. Together they paint a picture of a group of residents highly engaged with the subject of trees, parks, and the streetscape.

Some respondents have used the opportunity to offer their ideas, such as a wetland parks, while others complained about issues that have seemingly been top-of-mind for some time.

- Any greenery makes an area feel more welcoming
- As many streets as possible in Highett, more trees the better
- No Plane trees!
- Create a wetland around the natural water course near Lyle Anderson reserve
- Removal of all street trees with yellow seeds that roll your ankle (Editor's note: the respondent is referring to *Liquidambar styraciflua*, Ornamental Sweetgum)
- Pocket Parks Please!
- Do a street-by-street audit

- Do streets where the Heat Zone is impacting
- Anywhere but Beaumaris!
- The Highett Tennis Club in Tibrockney Street is hot and dusty and could do with some plantings to provide shade in the grassed area outside the fenced clubhouse and court area
- More trees in Peterson Reserve, not just around the outside boundary of park, but within the park, avoiding the sports field of course.
- Negotiate with Melbourne Water for them to plant more trees in retarding basin
- Trees in middle of roundabouts like elsewhere in Bayside!
- Replace the tree they chopped down in Middleton Street
- Replace the old dying trees & horrible flowering dark leaved trees as they not doing well or looking good (Editor's note: the respondent is referring to *Prunus cerasifera nigra*, Ornamental Plum).
- Replace the horrible deciduous trees that have serrated leaves and flat seeds as they self-seed and sucker everywhere. (Editor's note: the respondent is referring to *Fraxinus excelsior aurea* – Golden Ash).
- Every street in Highett is missing trees
- Areas with new development or high-density housing
- Royalty Ave: Less than 1/3 of 51 trees are healthy & right size. BUT Princess Ave has better coverage, almost all trees seem healthy & right size.
- Royalty Ave tree planting is inadequate. Bayside's maps show high heat island effects & over 1/2 street less than 20% cover yet NO replacements for next 10 yrs.
- Need trees in open spaces along the train line and major roads where many pedestrians commute
- Major street needs lots of canopy trees.
- There are shrubs planted on the nature strips that are just in the way when people park their cars, and you can't open car doors to get out of your car. They are impractical and branches hang over the footpaths leaving little room for walking, especially with prams, and mobility scooters etc.
- Remove multiple dead trees in Highett Rd and replace with new trees.
- Better council enforcement! Street trees removed during a new development near me were never replaced
- Peterson Reserve and other playgrounds/ovals don't have enough shade
- Urban centres like Highett Rd train station, way too much concrete.
- Lyle Anderson Reserve is just sad.
- Need more trees on nature strips around schools
- Everywhere in Highett, there's simply not enough greenery in most areas
- Don't forget Hampton East!