

5.4 MONASH COUNCIL'S 2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT

(JR: File No.)

Responsible Director: Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopts the Annual Report for the 2018/2019 year, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

INTRODUCTION

Council has prepared a detailed account of its financial and operational performance for the 12-month period ending 30 June 2019. The resulting Annual Report was submitted to the Minister for Local Government on 30 September 2019, meeting the legislative deadline. Under the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council must formally consider the Annual Report within 30 days after it is submitted to the Minister.

BACKGROUND

The Annual Report provides a comprehensive account of Council's performance over the 12-month period. The report details Council's key achievements and demonstrates our commitment to transparency, accountability and good governance.

DISCUSSION

The report includes the Financial and Performance Statements that were considered by Council at its meeting on 27 August 2019. These Statements were subsequently certified by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

In addition to these Statements, the Annual Report outlines how Council performed against its stated objectives in the *Council Plan (major initiatives and services for 2018/2019)*. As the Annual Report demonstrates, Council performed strongly in the 2018/19 year. Council set four Major Initiatives in its Council Plan in 2017-2021 to be undertaken in 2018/19 and all four initiatives were achieved.

There were 44 Council Plan initiatives in 2018/19 with 42 (95%) achieved and two (0.5%) progressing.

Some of Council's major activities in 2018/19 included:

Major sporting upgrades

Council continued to improve local sporting facilities in 2018/19 in line with our commitment to encourage our residents to stay active. Projects included a major upgrade of Holmesglen Reserve in Ashwood; eight new synthetic tennis courts at Caloola Reserve, Oakleigh; a new sports pavilion

at Columbia Park, Wheelers Hill and an upgrade of the Pinewood Reserve pavilion in Mount Waverley.

Atherton Road upgrade

A \$5.8 million project to improve the streetscape on Atherton Road with wider footpaths, an asphalt road service, improved stormwater drainage with water sensitive urban, indented and modified parking bays and new street lighting and street trees.

Headspace win

The five-year campaign by local youth and Council to open a headspace youth mental health service in Monash has been a success, with the Federal Coalition government announcing that it would fund a headspace in Monash. The headspace service will make an enormous difference in the lives of young people in Monash, assisting them to live happier and healthier lives and reach their full potential.

Montclair multi-level car park and Kingsway transformation

Council is progressing with plans for a multi-level car park in Montclair Avenue, Glen Waverley, as part of our long-term vision to revitalise Kingsway and the Activity Centre precinct. The car park will provide a minimum of 1004 car spaces (including 499 new spaces) to not only meet Glen Waverley's future car parking needs but the removal of 99 on-street parking in Kingsway will allow for the enhancement of this dining, retail and shopping precinct.

Oakleigh Recreation Centre redevelopment

The \$24.4 million redevelopment upgrade of the Oakleigh Recreation Centre is one of Council's largest construction projects and includes the creation of five new indoor multi-purpose courts, a gymnasium upgrade and conversion of the existing stadium to a regional level gymnastics facility.

Recycling crisis

Monash remains the metropolitan Council with the lowest rates on a rate per assessment basis and the Council with the lowest rates in Victoria on a per capita basis. The rate increase in Monash in 2018/19 was 2.25%. However, the impact of China's ban on some recycling materials resulted in an unexpected net cost to Council of \$1.5M, resulting in the introduction of a limited recycling levy of \$22 per ratepayer to meet these increased costs.

Protecting our 'garden city' character

Council adopted the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy in October 2018 to protect the 'garden city' character of the municipality. Key outcomes include a target of 30% canopy vegetation cover by 2040 and guidelines to maximise the retention of mature trees on private and public land and provide guidance of appropriate plant selection and planting.

Advocacy campaigns

Over this 12-month period, Council took up a number of issues on behalf of our community including:

- Advocating for improvements to social housing in the lead up to the State election in November 2018. The campaign, run by the Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance (EAHA), includes Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash and Yarra Ranges councils
- Delivering the #RaiseYourHand4MonashYouth #Headspace4Youth campaign featuring a compelling video of Monash youth talking about the challenges they face to draw attention to the critical need for youth mental health support
- Joining the I Love Kinder advocacy campaign to push the Federal Government to continue its funding for four-year old kindergarten to ensure all children have access to 15 hours of kindergarten a week, rather than place the burden of funding on families
- Supporting the Commuters Count campaign, through the Eastern Transport Coalition, for a raft of public transport improvements including accelerating the delivery of significant bus improvements in the eastern suburbs.

CONCLUSION

That Council considers and adopts the Annual Report for the 2018/2019 year, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.