

## Public Question Time – Council Meeting – 8 April 2025

### QUESTION WITH NOTICE

#### Strategic Planning Process

Bettyanne Foster, a resident of Capel Sound asked the following question:

*When will the report on the strategic planning process to rezone 11a Allambi Ave, Capel Sound to Public Park Recreation Zone be presented to Council?*

Council advised that the strategic planning process to rezone 11a Allambi Ave, Capel Sound to Public Park Recreation Zone will be outlined as part of a report to Council in July this year seeking Council's approval to undertake community consultation on a draft of the Shire's Open Space Strategy.

#### Open Space Strategy

Bettyanne Foster, asked a follow up question:

*When will the Open Space Strategy be complete and released to the public?*

Council advised, that subject to Council approval, the draft Open Space Strategy will be placed on public exhibition in August 2025. Post consultation, the Strategy will be updated prior to Shire officers seeking Council adoption of the Strategy in December 2025.

#### Bluescope Steel Rates

Dale Stohr, a resident of Crib Point asked the following question:

*With Bluescope Steel (formerly Lysaghts) purchasing 1700 acres at Hastings and paying annual land rates of \$150,000 in 1972, \$840,000 in 1983 and \$925,000 in 2021, what annual rates are Bluescope contributing to the Shire in 2025 considering they announced a net profit after tax of \$805 million in 2024?*

Council advised that as per the Western Port (Steel Works Rating) Act 1972, which governs the rates paid by Bluescope to the Council, Bluescope has been required to pay a fixed amount of \$840,000 per year to the Shire since 1983. This amount has remained unchanged and has been in effect for over 40 years and remains in place for 2025.

#### Beach Cleaning

The following questions regarding beach cleaning were grouped together with a combined response provided.

Josephine Jones, a resident of Rye, asked the following question:

*Will council commit to testing the chosen mechanical rake using a methodology, as I previously used, to demonstrate its environmental impact and effectiveness, before entering into any new contract, to ensure it aligns with sustainable practices and measurable outcomes for litter reduction and coastal protection?*

Ryan Kilby, a resident of Gembrook, asked the following question:

*Why has the council not conducted a comparative field test of the five beach cleaning methods, employing the same area on the same beach simultaneously to evaluate the cleaning time, amount of debris removed, and the condition of the beach post-cleaning?*

Council advised they have considered five mechanical rake technologies available in the market with details available for Council's consideration as part of confidential Attachment 9. This review of mechanical raking technology has not included on ground testing, with some of the technologies not currently used in Australia. A hybrid approach of cleaning could allow for continued monitoring throughout the contract period.

Susan Young, a resident of Mornington, asked the following questions:

*Given that by Council's own admission, raking collects only 40% of beach litter, breaks up and pushes the rest deeper into the sand, damages and removes organic matter which is then expensive to dispose of, spews emissions and causes erosion of the beaches, why is the council considering a return to raking at all?*

During the trial litter data has been collected for each serviced beach and monitoring of micro-plastics (<5mm), macro-plastics (>5mm) and wrack was conducted at targeted locations. This data is provided in the report being presented to Council on 8 April along with details of five options of beach cleaning methodology. It is Council's decision to determine which is the preferred option for future beach cleaning.

### **Traffic Wardens**

Peter Yalden, a resident of Mount Martha, asked the following question:

*Why are traffic wardens employed by a Melbourne council serving infringement notices in Mornington.*

Council advised that the parking enforcement services is contracted to a company named Orikan. Orikan supply staff who are authorised officers to conduct the parking enforcement duties within the Shire.

### **Road Sealing**

Jason Grasso, a resident of Tyabb, asked the following question:

*What is the current status of the sealing of Peacock Road in Tyabb in terms of the scheme and the delivery?*

Council advised that a Planning Permit P22/286 was issued for 4 Peacock Road Tyabb in March 2024 for the development of 41 Warehouses, reduction in carparking and associated works in accordance with the endorsed plans.

Condition 14 of the permit requires a section 173 agreement with Council for the owner to pay a monetary contribution to the Shire of \$180,000 indexed quarterly according to CPI for the construction of Peacock Road, Tyabb.

This financial contribution is to seal Peacock Road from the intersection of Mornington-Tyabb Road to the entrance of 4 Peacock Road, where the 41 Warehouses will be built. Consideration will be given to constructing the remaining section of Peacock Road under a special charge scheme. No timeframes have been determined at this stage.

### **Events Permits and Processes**

Andrew Coghill, a resident of Moorooduc, asked the following question:

*The Harry Potter Experience was provided a permit inside the wildlife sanctuary at the Briars, zoned PCRZ until it was moved due to community action. Can the council rule out*

*providing permits, approvals for events, on land zoned PCRZ- Public Conservation and Resource Zone in our council area for public land managed by the council?*

Council advised that the Harry Potter Experience was exempt from a Planning Permit pursuant to Clause 62.03 of the Planning Scheme.

It is not possible to provide you with any assurance or undertaking to 'rule out providing permits, approvals for events, on land zoned PCRZ', as Council must consider every decision it makes under the relevant legislation at the relevant time. Providing such an undertaking would be erroneous and not in accordance with its legislative responsibilities as a decision maker.

With regards to events at The Briars, on 19 March 2024 Council resolved that no events other than those activities that have low impact in keeping with caring for and the welfare of wildlife will be held within the Wildlife Sanctuary at the Briars.

A revised event policy will be taken for discussion with Council in April. There is also a new event strategy proposed to be developed. This document will articulate in more detail the type of events and appropriate event locations across the Peninsula. This strategy would also be developed in consultation with the community.

Andrew also asked, the following question:

Review and implement processes which protect the reputation of both the Shire and the event organiser, to ensure the Shire is a trusted event host. Review the categorisation of events and the terms in which events must be referred to a Council decision. Work to minimise the impact of the event approval process, so as not make the event permitting process difficult and off-putting. -

Has this work been undertaken, if so please provide an update?

Council advised that on the 16 September 2024, Council resolved to present a report by 30 June 2025 outlining the progress and actions taken to address the findings identified in the Governance Review Report and by the Probity Advisor. The review and associated report remain on track to meet this timeline.

## **QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE**

The following questions were received without notice, a written response to these questions will be provided to the submitters and will be published on the website.

### **Hastings Park Reserve ownership**

Rhys Matulis a resident of Bittern, asked the following question:

*Can the Shire please provide information to the community about the ownership and history of the Hastings Park Reserve at Thornhill street Hastings.*

Hastings Park is owned by State Government Department of Energy Environment & Climate Action (DEECA) with Shire is the Committee of Management. The name of this reserve and details should be directed to the DEECA, however if you would like information Shire's approach to Place Naming Policy <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/new-website-documents/about-us/policies/docs/place-naming-policy.pdf>

## **Dromana Escarpment Management Plan**

Stephen Derham a resident of Keilor East, asked the following question:

*Please detail the objectives, specific site and map references, total budget allocations and expenditures to date, outcomes delivered, and public consultation undertaken (including dates, methods, stakeholder groups, or number of participants), along with the next steps and confirmed timelines for future planning or delivery aligned to the five Dromana projects listed.*

A detailed response to the above question was provided directly to Mr Derham.

## **Beach Cleaning**

Ann Scholes, a resident of Mount Eliza, asked the following question:

*Please could you keep all parties concerned fully informed: still waiting for answer to my emails regarding beach hand cleaning.*

We endeavour to keep the community informed throughout this process. The Future Beach Cleaning Council Report from the 8 April 2025 Council Meeting is the most current source of information available.

Ryan Kilby, asked the following question:

*Why is the Council considering the beach tech 2000 and Barber Rake 600HD when the previous rake is smaller and had trouble accessing the beach?*

Council have considered five mechanical rake technologies available in the market. Details of each technology are available for Council's consideration as part of Future Beach Cleaning, confidential Attachment 9 of the 8 April 2025 Council Report. The review includes all known mechanical technologies regardless of specifications.

Megan Carve, a resident of Capel Sound, asked the following question:

*For the beach cleaning community feedback survey, can you tell if people respond more than once? And is this taken into consideration?*

The open survey was intended for community to share their views throughout the 12-month trial as it is recognised that seasonal changes and weather events will affect beach user observations. The survey does not record individual user data. To gain greater insights, in person surveys were also completed on 17 January 2025 with results available within Future Beach Cleaning, Attachment 2 of the 8 April 2025 Council Report.