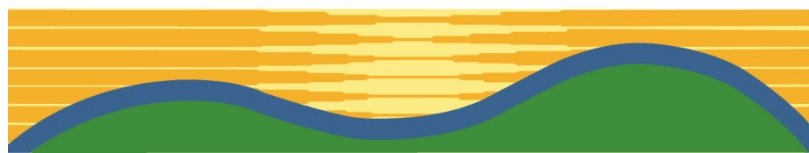


MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



COMMUNITY QUESTIONS AND HEARINGS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

TUESDAY 9 MARCH 2021
7.00pm

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Community Questions and Hearings Committee** of the Mitchell Shire Council will be held at **Mitchell Civic Centre, 113 High St, Broadford, on Tuesday 9 March 2021** commencing at **7.00pm**.

BRETT LUXFORD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

By attending this meeting, you agree to be filmed. An audio and digital recording is made of all public Council and Committee Meetings, streamed live and published on Council's website. By participating in proceedings including during question time or in making a submission regarding an item before Council you agree to this publication. You should be aware that any private information volunteered by you during your participation in a meeting is subject to recording and publication. Meeting recordings can be located at www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au.

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1 WELCOME

The Mayor formally opens the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomes all present.

2 GOVERNANCE DECLARATION**3 APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE****4 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with Section 130(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Minutes of the Community Questions and Hearings Committee held 8 February 2021, as circulated, be confirmed.

6 ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

6.1 CONNECTING SEYMOUR TO THE GREAT VICTORIAN RAIL TRAIL

Author: Amy Reynolds - Senior Project Officer - Economic Development

File No: EC/10/012

Attachments: Nil

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report to Council on submissions received during the key stakeholder engagement process for the connecting Seymour to the Great Victorian Rail Trail project.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Seymour Structure Plan (2018) identifies several high-level rail trail extension options that could connect Seymour to the existing Great Victorian Rail Trail.
- 2.2 In 2019, Council received a \$50,000 grant from the Victorian State Government to pursue the current project. Using the alignment options identified in the Seymour Structure Plan, the purpose of the current project is to determine a single preferred alignment and undertake slightly more detailed mapping and design work to inform and confirm the preferred route; for which detailed design work could then be undertaken (subject to further funding being secured).
- 2.3 Key stakeholder engagement on four trail alignment options occurred in November and December 2020.

3. Key Matters

- 3.1 Prior to undertaking further detailed design work or advocating for additional project funding, a single preferred alignment should be identified. This will ensure efficient use of resources and should consider the opinions of key stakeholders.
- 3.2 Key stakeholder engagement occurred during November – December 2020. The intent of this engagement was to test four alignment options.
- 3.3 Notices were sent to all directly affected, adjoining and opposite landowners of the alignment options. Over 300 landowner notices were sent.
- 3.4 Notices were also sent to relevant State agencies and utility authorities.
- 3.5 Council officers responded to 61 initial enquires (phone and email), conducted 24 one-on-one landowner meetings and received a total of 43 written submissions in the following groupings:

CONNECTING SEYMOUR TO THE GREAT VICTORIAN RAIL TRAIL (CONT.)

- Landowners – 32 submissions
- Community groups – 3 submissions
- State agencies and utility authorities – 8 submissions

3.6 Landowner submission data:

Alignment Option	Supportive submissions	Objecting submissions	Total
Option 1A & 1B (Goulburn River)	3	15	18
Option 2 (Schoolhouse Lane/Dysart Rd)	0	1	1
Option 3 (Dysart Rd/Hume Freeway)	0	0	0
Option 4 (Main Rd/Rail Corridor)	0	13	13
		TOTAL	32

Recommendation

THAT Council officers provide a report to Council in relation to the Connecting Seymour to the Great Victoria Rail Trail project.

CONNECTING SEYMOUR TO THE GREAT VICTORIAN RAIL TRAIL (CONT.)

4. Financial, Resource and Asset Management Implications

- 4.1 The current project is grant funded and is being project managed by existing resources of the Economic Development Unit.
- 4.2 There is currently no funding secured for detailed construction design or technical investigation, land security or construction. Further funding from State or Federal Government would most likely be required for the project to progress to the next stage of technical assessment and design.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 All submitters have been invited to attend this meeting of the Community Questions and Hearings Committee to make a brief presentation in support of the application and submissions.

6. Sustainability Implications (Social and Environmental)

- 6.1 If a preferred alignment option is identified and construction pursued, compliance with planning and environmental regulations will be required, this will include obtaining necessary permits and completing required technical impact assessment reports.

7. Policy and Legislative Implications

- 7.1 The stakeholder engagement was undertaken in accordance with the Mitchell Shire Community Engagement Framework.
- 7.2 The hearing of this report at the Community Questions and Hearings Committee is consistent with Councils operational requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

8. Alignment to Council Plan

- 8.1 The connecting Seymour to the Great Victorian Rail Trail project aligns with the following Council Plan 2017-2021 Strategies:
 - Key Strategy 3.9 - Improve the accessibility and connectivity of pedestrian and cycle paths within and between our towns.
 - Key Strategy 5.5 - Support the development and enhancement of local tourist attractions.

9. Conflict of Interest

- 9.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in this matter.

7 SUBMISSIONS**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORUM****8 QUESTION TIME****9 COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS****10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Meetings of the Community Questions and Hearings Committee are scheduled for the second Monday of the month. If no submissions are scheduled to be heard at a particular meeting of the Committee, the meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting of the Community Questions and Hearings Committee is scheduled for 7.00pm on Monday 12 April 2021 at Mitchell Civic Centre, 113 High St, Broadford.

11 CLOSE OF MEETING