

St Kilda Marina Project Community Panel Session One Summary



The 50-year lease of the St Kilda Marina is ending on 30 April 2019. This presents an exciting opportunity to plan for the marina's future before a long-term lease arrangement is secured. Council is committed to working with the Victorian Government, community, users of the marina and other key stakeholders to re-imagine the St Kilda Marina site.

The St Kilda Marina Project Community Panel is a key part of Council's commitment to working with the community. The Community Panel will work collaboratively with Council and specialist consultants to identify the best long-term option for the site that delivers an effective balance of social, cultural, environmental, economic and financial benefits.

The Community Panel was formed in July 2018. This document provides a summary of session one, held on 25 August at the St Kilda Town Hall.

To view the summary of the introductory session held prior to session one and to learn more about the St Kilda Marina Project please visit <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/stkildamarina>

Overview of Session One

The St Kilda Marina Project Community Panel session one took place on Saturday 25 August 2018. The session was designed to build the Community Panel's knowledge of the site, develop an understanding of the opportunities and constraints, and to generate dialogue about how the site's vision could be realised.

Building the Community Panel's knowledge of the site

The session officially kicked off at the St Kilda Marina for a project site walk 'n' talk. The walk was guided by David Helms, a Strategic Planner and Heritage Advisor at City of Port Phillip, who discussed the history of the development of the site and key heritage elements. The walk 'n' talk was also supported by representatives from the Port Phillip EcoCentre, Sharon Hunter and Neil Blake, who educated panel members about the current conditions of the local natural environment and the challenges and opportunities for the site in the future.

Understanding the project's constraints and opportunities

To help build the Community Panel's understanding of the project's constraints and opportunities each of the technical consultants supporting the design process presented the assessments they have undertaken to date:

Urbis (economic and finance) delivered a presentation about the competitive advantage of the St Kilda Marina, why the existing marina should remain and increase in capacity, other possible uses that could be included, and the benefits of investment in the precinct.

Tract (urban design) delivered a presentation about the need to get the balance right between investment and providing for community and environmental benefit. They highlighted some of the key challenges and opportunities for the site such as: the need to improve connections between the site and neighbouring reserves; the conflicts that exist between pedestrians, cyclists and car routes; and the need to open and improve the perimeter of the site to provide access and create a welcoming public space.

AECOM (sustainability and resilience) delivered a presentation about some of the constraints and opportunities in relation to the coastal and environmental management of the site, the current environmental conditions, and possible responses, such as flood mitigation, environmentally sustainable design and how to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Generating dialogue about how the site's vision and objectives can be realised

Jason Twill, Founder and Director at Urban Apostles, delivered a presentation to the Community Panel about the changing nature of cities and the need to think differently about the spaces we have. Jason talked about the need to think about a 'living system design' approach over a 'technical system design' approach where the focus is on living and whole systems, i.e. working with the natural systems not against them. He emphasised the need for cities to be 'life centric, not human-centric'.

"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

– Jane Jacobs quote, shared by Jason Twill to the panel.

In the lead up to the Community Panel, the technical consultants had been working closely with Council to develop a series of site scenarios. Drawing from the broader community engagement undertaken in stage two of the project, these scenarios were developed with the intention of illustrating the scale of possibilities that could be achieved. These ranged from a baseline scenario suggesting the minimum improvements required to realise the site vision and objectives up to the scenario delivering maximum return through more significant development.

The Community Panel used these scenarios to begin exploring site opportunities presented by the technical consultants, as well as generating new ideas they would like to see considered.

Some of the highlights that came from the Community Panel discussions included:

- excitement about the sustainability and resilience elements of the scenarios
- a strong desire for incorporating elements that minimise environmental impacts
- ideas for incorporating co-working spaces, arts and other creative industries on the site to create economic benefits
- a need to provide safe access to and within the site, and minimise conflict between cyclists, cars, skateboarders and pedestrians
- debate about the placement of the boat sheds
- concern about the level of commerciality, particularly in relation to competing for use of space
- lots of interest around the use and activation of public spaces.

Insights from the Community Panel

"The potential for the site is to be a leading force and a good example of sustainability and renewable energy solutions for the wider community."

"Energy efficiency coupled with bioclimatic and biofiltration makes a sustainable and efficient precinct."

"There is potential for the creation of jobs in the area."

"We need better dry boat storage facilities. There is a major shortage presently with a growing city."

"Spaces to be active in and to actively watch."



What's next?

Over the coming weeks City of Port Phillip and the technical consultants will continue their assessments of possible solutions, and how the vision and objectives can be met, whilst considering the Community Panel's feedback. The Community Panel will reconvene for session two where they will be presented with further refined site directions to consider.

To learn more about how you can follow the Community Panel's process be sure to visit the project page <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/stkildamarina>

Any questions?

If you have any questions about the St Kilda Marina Project please contact the project team via ASSIST on 03 9209 6777 or by emailing skmproject@portphillip.vic.gov.au