



CITY OF
PORT PHILLIP

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LITRE



Participant briefing pack

Waste Special Focus Workshop



Plan ¹⁷/₂₇

The City of Port Phillip is embarking on a community engagement program to develop a new Council Plan 2017-2027 for our City.

Together we are facing a future of exciting possibilities – as well as new challenges. A future with more residents, higher density housing developments, impacts from a changing climate, and new ways of working and living in a modern world.

We have a choice – to embrace and manage change to make our City an even better place for people or let change happen to us.

The stakes are high, and what we've done in the past may not work in the future. That's why we are asking the community to join us in a serious conversation about the possible futures for our City.

This briefing pack is divided into three sections as follows:

- Section 1:
City of Port Phillip's key challenges
- Section 2:
Background on the workshop topic area
– Waste
- Section 3:
Frequently Asked Questions



Section 1:

City of Port Phillip's key challenges



Key challenges

Population growth

By 2036, Port Phillip is expected to grow to more than 142,200 people, a significant 33 per cent increase from the 2015 Estimated Resident Population of 107,127 people. By 2050, projections show a doubling of the Port Phillip population.

Our worker population will also rise dramatically. The Fishermans Bend renewal area is expected to cater for 60,000 jobs by 2050, with just over half of these jobs projected within the City of Port Phillip.

Growth will not be uniform across the City. The St Kilda Road and Fishermans Bend neighbourhoods are projected to grow significantly, while other established neighbourhoods will have low or no growth.

In 2036, the population will continue to be highly mobile and dominated by 25-39 year olds, but with an increasing proportion of older people. More than two-thirds of our households will be single person and couples without children.

Population growth will increase demand for all Council services and amenities. The cost of providing services will increase and demand will stretch services and infrastructure.

Urbanisation

Population growth will drive an increase in urban density. Around 25,000 new dwellings will be required by 2036 to accommodate the expected population growth in Port Phillip.

The Fishermans Bend renewal area will make a significant contribution to housing growth, with new high density neighbourhoods. The density of established areas across the City will also increase, with the St Kilda / St Kilda West and St Kilda Road neighbourhoods accounting for more than half of the projected housing growth outside Fishermans Bend over the next 20 years.

We will see more medium to high density residential development / vertical living and continued pressure to convert commercial areas to residential use.

With increasing density and vertical living, more people will use our parks, villages, roads and footpaths, beaches and public transport. There may be more tension, as public spaces will have to cater for different uses.

Housing costs in Port Phillip are twice the Melbourne average. Private rental and home purchase in Port Phillip is now unaffordable for both lower and moderate income households.

Climate change

Australia's weather is becoming hotter, drier and more extreme. Melbourne is predicted to experience a 0.6°C increase in average temperatures by 2030. There will be a corresponding two per cent decrease in rainfall, a 10-15 per cent increase in storm intensity, and projected sea level rise of between 10-20 centimetres.

Port Phillip is already experiencing the impacts of climate change, including temperature increases (of between 1.2 and 1.4 degrees since 1950), lower than average rainfall (a decrease of between 100 and 200 millimetres since 1950), more flooding, and a notable increase in the number of days over 35 degrees.

Our City's beach lifestyle and coastal activities are very attractive and important to residents and visitors. However, Port Phillip is built on reclaimed land to the south and north. Much of the City is only one to three metres above sea level and coastal areas are exposed to the impacts of climate change, especially flooding and erosion.

We can expect increased flooding of coastal properties and public amenities, storm damage to infrastructure, beach erosion, decreased water quality and security of water supply, reduced summer outdoor activities and hotter urban spaces. Council assets and the Port Phillip community have varying abilities to cope with these changes.

Key challenges

Legislative and policy influence

All Victorian councils operate in a complex legislative and policy environment that includes 75 Acts of Parliament and 28 Regulations. The key Act (*the Local Government Act 1989*) is under review.

A trend of government cost shifting and increased compliance will likely continue. Government funding is being reduced or withdrawn from several sectors, placing additional expectation on local government to fill the gap.

The introduction of a cap on rate increases means local government's ability to control revenue is constrained. Accordingly, we are experiencing increased strain on our financial sustainability.

The Victorian Government's cap on local government rate increases is forecast to impact Council's bottom line by \$67 million over the next 10 years if we don't make changes to the way we operate and deliver our services.

Changing economic conditions

Port Phillip's economy was close to \$12 billion in 2014, contributing 4.3 per cent of the greater Melbourne economy. Significant employment areas in Port Phillip include the St Kilda Road office precinct and established business clusters in South Melbourne and Port Melbourne.

The Port Phillip section of Fishermans Bend is currently home to over 750 businesses and approximately 12,000 workers. The transition of Fishermans Bend to a mixed use community will have a significant impact on the number and type of businesses and jobs in that area.

Our people can expect to spend more time travelling to work outside of the City. We may also continue to experience a change in the nature of our business community as high rental prices put pressure on smaller businesses. We may experience a decrease in creativity and vibrancy if our existing artists and creative businesses relocate outside of Port Phillip.

The spectrum of people considered vulnerable is widening due to increased costs of living, rental and property costs, social exclusion and health inequity. More than 8,000 residents are living in housing stress and 2,500 residents are on the public housing waiting list (excluding local community housing waiting lists).

Rapid evolution of new technology

The world is becoming more connected. People, businesses and governments are increasingly moving online to connect, to deliver and access services, to obtain information and to perform transactions like shopping and working.

We can expect increasing demand for online services, and engagement through social media and other digital means. Technology is also changing the way our residents work. Around one in every 12 workers works from home.

The digital shift will reshape how we deliver services. Technological advances present opportunities for Council to consider new methods of service delivery that have the potential to offer efficiencies, for example electronic parking management.

Key challenges

Transport and parking

Road network congestion will continue to be an issue as our population grows and the capacity of our road network for cars cannot be increased. There are ongoing efforts by the Victorian Government to prioritise more efficient and sustainable travel modes such as trams, walking and cycling.

Port Phillip currently experiences very significant traffic volumes caused by local workers and residents, as well as people travelling through our municipality on arterial roads. As our City grows, managing congestion will be reliant on more people choosing to travel by non-car modes.

There is an increasing challenge in the allocation of on-street car parking spaces to different users such as residents, workers and visitors. In many parts of the municipality, demand for parking outstrips supply, and Council needs to make decisions about how to best allocate this scarce resource.

Section 2:

Background on the workshop topic
Waste



For more than
20 years Council
has been committed
to reducing waste
in our City.

In 2007, Council adopted a Toward Zero Environmental Strategy which set the following targets:

- A reduction in Council waste going to landfill by 80 per cent by 2020 (originally based on 1999 levels, but due to incomplete baseline information revised to 2011/12 levels)
- A reduction in community waste going to landfill by 75 per cent by 2020

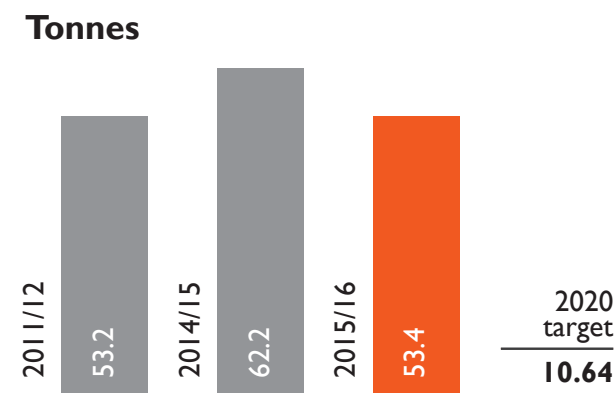
In 2015/16, Council diverted approximately 40 per cent of household waste from landfill (33 per cent from kerbside recycling and 7 per cent from the Resource Recovery Centre). However, household waste to landfill since 2007 has increased by approximately 9 per cent.

Based on data gathered from regular bin audits, an average household garbage bin in Port Phillip contains:

- 37% actual rubbish
- 15% green garden waste
- 31% food organic waste
- 17% recyclable material that should be in the recycling bin

Since 2007, the tonnes of recyclable materials collected from the Resource Recovery Centre have increased by approximately 59 per cent.

The table below from our 2015/16 Annual Report shows Council's progress towards meeting its target of 80 per cent of its waste going to landfill by 2020.



The Victorian Government's Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan was released in June 2015. This plan identifies future infrastructure needs and locations for waste management facilities. In 2016, the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan was released which contains a number of strategic objectives including:

1. **Reduce waste sent to landfill.** This objective seeks to increase the supply of viable resource recovery infrastructure to reduce pressure on existing landfills and to reduce the need for new facilities
2. **Increase organic waste recovered.** This objective seeks to reduce the environmental and community impact of organics in landfill by minimising food waste and by recovering more food and garden waste
3. **Deliver community, environmental and economic benefits.** This objective seeks to support a liveable and productive Melbourne with a resource recovery and waste network that provides jobs and economic opportunities, while reducing environmental and community impact
4. **Plan for Melbourne's growing population.** This objective seeks to ensure Melbourne has the right resource recovery and waste infrastructure it needs in the right place, at the right time.

Council is currently developing a Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy which will align with the Metropolitan and Victorian objectives. Additionally, Port Phillip's waste collection services will be re-tendered in 2021 which is an opportunity to reconsider our current waste management approach.

The question you'll be answering along with other participants at this workshop

To significantly reduce the volume of waste going to landfill, should we focus more on supporting people to minimise the waste they produce or pursue new organic waste processing solutions that may need to be paid for by higher rates?

Background to this question

Reducing the amount of waste our community sends to landfill has been a key goal of sustainability in local government for many years. As an inner metropolitan council with a high population density (like the cities of Melbourne and Yarra) Port Phillip faces several constraints to reducing waste, including by diverting it from landfill through recycling. These include:

- the challenges of recycling in multiunit dwellings, with limited space for bins and people incorrectly using shared recycling facilities
- a relatively high turnover of residents in our City (with a high proportion of renters), requiring continuous education about what can be recycled
- a relatively low percentage of green organics in the waste stream (15 per cent) which means implementing an organics collection may be costly and limited in its impact on diversion rates
- limited, large-scale options for the processing of garden organics and food waste currently in Victoria for Port Phillip generated organic waste
- increasing population and visitor numbers in the City of Port Phillip which is increasing the overall amount of waste being produced in our City.

Who will be providing information at this Special Focus Workshop?

Nick Dunstan, Acting Coordinator Waste Management Services, City of Port Phillip

Nick will provide an overview of Port Phillip Council's waste management services and challenges.

Karen Jones, Education Manager, Port Phillip EcoCentre

Karen will discuss behaviour change programs with regard to waste – the journey we have been on, what has worked well and what has been harder to achieve.

Rob Millard, CEO, Metro Waste and Resource Recovery

Rob will discuss what is happening with waste management across Melbourne and Victoria and what direction the State is heading.

What is Council already doing to attempt to respond to these questions and issues?

At a local level Council has pursued many options to increase waste diversion including:

- increasing the number of recycling streams at the Port Phillip Resource Recovery Centre (including mattresses, paint and electronic waste)
- providing residents with four free green waste collections per property per year (six for multi-unit developments) and free drop off for residential green waste at Port Phillip's resource recovery centre
- the sorting and recycling of collected hard and dumped rubbish
- the trialling and promotion of home composting services
- education campaigns, including national campaigns such as 'get it right on bin night' as well as Council driven print and online media
- proactively influencing new developments at the planning stage via waste management guidelines and plan reviews
- improving Council's own in-house waste management

At a regional level Port Phillip Council has advocated for the inclusion of alternative waste processing technologies that process the waste stream in a way that removes and recycles as much material as possible, in regional processing contracts and as stand-alone options.

What are others (organisations/ community members) already doing regarding these questions and issues?

- Many local environment organisations are heavily involved in reducing waste to landfill. The Port Phillip EcoCentre in particular provides excellent community education and support including facilitation (with support from Council) of a Resource Smart schools program – integrating waste and sustainability education into the school curriculum.
- In other areas outside of Port Phillip, there are a number of councils with green (garden or organic) waste collection systems. Some have three bin systems and others have an opt-in service. These are generally funded through rates revenue.
- The CSIRO has recently started a business waste exchange program in five Melbourne council areas (City of Kingston, Hume City, Knox City, and City of Greater Dandenong) where waste from one business becomes an asset to another business that needs that resource.

What ideas, suggestions or proposals are being considered, or have been considered?

There are many potential solutions, all with their own limitations. Some options to increase recycling and other resource recovery at a local level include:

- medium scale community/local business composting projects
- promotion of small scale home composting solutions
- procuring a limited kerbside green waste collection.

At a regional level options include:

- innovative waste processing options (to extract and recycle material from the waste stream)
- product stewardship programs (promoting cradle to grave product management)
- support of new recycling solutions for specific materials (i.e. Polystyrene).

What would be outside of Council's control, or beyond its responsibilities, or expertise?

Aspects that are potentially outside Council's control include:

- direct procurement of new processing facilities (due to cost)
- reducing production of materials, both in product content and packaging, by the market
- directly reducing the purchasing/consumption of material by the community (but this can be influenced by education programs)
- Victorian or Commonwealth Government legislation regarding waste.

What could other organisations/layers of government do in response to these questions and issues?

- Leadership, support and technical advice from groups such as the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group, Sustainability Victoria and the Commonwealth Government.
- The waste industry also plays a vital role in creating markets and technologies to facilitate increased resource recovery.

What could everyday citizens do in response to these questions and issues?

Port Phillip citizens play two key roles in improving recycling and resource recovery in the city.

- Be aware of what can be recycled and put this into practice by using yellow lidded bins correctly
- Take your own bag and refillable water bottle / coffee cup rather than using single use products
- Start your own compost or worm farm system – either on your own or with your neighbours
- Consider repairing broken products rather than throwing them away and replacing
- Book a hard waste collection or use the Resource Recovery Centre to recycle items you can't place in your bin
- Dispose of all waste appropriately – take it home or put it in the bin
- Where available, use public recycling bins
- Consider your purchases carefully – do you need it, can you buy it second-hand, or is there an option that will generate less waste?
- Advocating for positive action from fellow residents, businesses and both local and state governments.

Section 3:

Frequently Asked Questions



Why is Council asking the community to help develop this plan?

As outlined in this document, the City of Port Phillip is facing a number of important challenges. Council believes that better solutions can be developed by involving the community, rather than merely consulting the community about our possible solutions.

Our City's residents, businesses and groups have a wealth of knowledge that we know we need to tap into. By involving the community, we can gain a better understanding of what's important to people, how we can do better, and how the community can contribute to solutions.

Involving the community will improve the quality of the Council Plan 2017-2027 and provide greater understanding and transparency around how Council will respond to the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Why is Council organising Special Focus Workshops?

Council has identified four key challenges it wants to explore with a cross section of the Port Phillip community. We have arranged several experts/guest speakers to provide different perspectives on these challenges, and are inviting participants to consider how best the Council and community can respond to them. The conclusions arrived at will be published, and Council will publicly respond to the advice provided in regard to these challenges.

The following key topics are being discussed:

- Water
- Diversity and inclusion
- Waste management
- Transport and parking

The topics were selected as they are issues considered important and urgent enough to address, or begin responding to, during this four year term of Council. They are complex and multi-faceted, and require a deeper conversation in order for the community to provide useful advice.

We are hosting online discussion forums on the same key topics for anyone who is unable to attend the workshops. All ideas gathered from the community will be considered as part of the development of the plan.

What will happen to the advice we provide in the workshop or online forums?

All ideas gathered at the workshops and online forums will be considered as part of Council Plan. Some of those ideas will be great, some will be easily implementable, others may not be feasible or possible to include.

There is a Findings Forum on 23 February 2017 which workshop participants will be encouraged to attend. Participants will be asked to collectively review the outputs from each of the workshops and online forums to help determine what they feel are the top priorities. The combined outputs from the Findings Forum will be provided to Council to consider as part of their development of the Council Plan 2017-2027.

What happens after the workshops?

- March 2017: Council develops draft Council Plan 2017-2027 for feedback
- April - May 2017: Draft Council Plan 2017-2027 circulated to the public for feedback
- June 2017: Council Plan 2017-2027 finalised and adopted
- July 2017: New Council Plan 2017-2027 starts