

7.3 Proposed Purchase of Former Yarra Hills Secondary College School site at 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth

SUMMARY

This report seeks to inform Council of the community consultation that took place from 9 February 2022 to 23 February 2022 on the proposed purchase of the former Yarra Hills Secondary College land at 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth.

The consultation recommended to the community that Council purchase the northern 3.6 hectare parcel of 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth utilising the current balance of Public Open Space Funding available to Walling Ward of \$2.97 million initially, in combination with funding from cash reserves of \$3.47 million, and then replacing the funding from cash reserves through the sale of four parcels of surplus Council land in the local area that are considered to be of limited broad community benefit.

The proposal to purchase land was made available to the community via the 'Shaping Yarra Ranges' page on Council's website from 9 February 2022 to 23 February 2022. A mail letter box drop for residents nearby to all potentially impacted parcels of land was also completed on 9 February, along with targeted text messaging for Walling Ward. General Facebook posts from Council's main account, as well as paid localised advertising, also drove engagement with the Shaping page. There were 6,284 views of the site, which included 3,573 unique visitors and 225 contributors. In total, 94.98% of respondents supported Council's decision to purchase the land, while 84.68% agreed with Council's proposed funding method.

This report seeks Council endorsement of the proposed purchase of land at 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth.

Cr Higgins left the meeting at 7.39pm and returned to the meeting at 7.44pm prior to a vote being taken.

Moved: Cr Cox

Seconded: Cr Heenan

That Council

1. *Note feedback received during the recent community consultation period for the proposed purchase of land at 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth.*
2. *In accordance with Section 112 of the Local Government Act 2020, agree to the formal offer from the Department of Treasury and Finance to acquire the northern 3.581ha of land at 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth for its ongoing use as public open space at a cost of \$6.44 million (exclusive of GST).*
3. *Approve that the funding of the purchase of 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth be undertaken utilising the current balance of Public Open Space Funding available to Walling Ward of \$2.97 million in combination with funding from cash reserves of \$3.47 million.*
4. *Seek reimbursement of the cash reserves within a maximum of four years and that, six monthly updates be provided to Council on the proposed sale of land parcels and*

financial reimbursement of the cash reserves.

5. *Approve that the replacement of cash reserves used for the land purchase occur through:*
 - (a) *Investigating and progressing the potential sale of four parcels of Council land in the area that are considered of limited community benefit and surplus to needs at:*
 - (i) *182-184 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth;*
 - (ii) *9A Wannan Court, Kilsyth;*
 - (iii) *16 Ellis Court, Mooroolbark; and*
 - (iv) *9 Tinarra Court, Kilsyth.*

Note: The potential sale of each parcel of land will be subject to its own approval process, including further community consultation.
 - (b) *Future Public Open Space contributions generated from the Walling Ward.*
6. *Approve the commencement of the statutory processes required for the investigation of the future sale of the four parcels of land aforementioned in accordance with Section 24A of the Subdivision Act 1988 and Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020.*
7. *Delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to proceed with the purchase of 150 Cambridge Road, Kilsyth including the signing of contract of sale for the purchase.*

The motion was Carried unanimously.