CM13.11. Murray River Experience Master Plan Review Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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CONFIDENTIAL	No		
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Purpose of Report

To present the updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the Murray River Experience Master Plan Review to Council for consideration and endorsement prior to commencing Phase Two Community Consultation.

Background

The Murray River Experience (MRE) Master Plan was originally endorsed by Council in February 2007. The Master Plan provides high level concept designs for eight sites along the foreshore of the Murray River and Lake Hume, including:

- Wonga Wetlands;
- West Albury Reserves (Padman/Mates Park, Kremur Street Boat Ramp and the wetlands in West Albury through to Horseshoe Lagoon);
- Central Riverside Parks (Oddies Creek Park, Noreuil Park, Noreuil Park Oval, Australia Park, Hovell Tree Park, Albury Swim Centre, Albury Sports Ground, Monument Hill and linking to the CBD);
- Doctors Point Reserve;
- Mungabareena Reserve and Eastern Hill Reserve;
- Lake Hume Reserves;
- Bowna Waters Reserve; and
- Table Top Reserve.

In addition to providing high level concept designs for each of these open space areas, the MRE Master Plan also provides the vision to follow the Murray River with a trail to link Wonga Wetlands to Lake Hume Village (42km) and extend the trail along the foreshore of Lake Hume to Bowna Waters Reserve (40km).

The key objectives of the MRE Master Plan are:

- strengthen the relationship between the community and the Murray River;
- provide greater access to the Murray River;
- provide quality amenities in all open spaces;
- promote and develop a diversity of experiences;
- significantly improve the health and wellbeing of the Murray River;

- protect and Improve viewing points to and from the Murray River; and
- promote the Aboriginal Community's Connection with the River.

Since the initial endorsement of the MRE Master Plan in 2007, a range of significant MRE projects have been completed, or are significantly advanced in readiness for delivery or construction. With the primary signature projects either complete or underway, a review of the MRE Master Plan is now required to identify future MRE priorities that can guide the implementation of future AlburyCity projects.

Through a procurement process, 'Chrofi' and 'McGregor Coxall' were engaged as consultants in 2020 to assist with the MRE Review, with the scope of the MRE Review including two parts:

Part A – Murray River Experience Master Plan Review

- Review the concept designs for each open space area and outline the following:
    a. evaluate completed initiatives;
    b. assess ongoing projects;
    c. adapt to evolving priorities; and
    d. identify the next set of priorities.
- Determine the next priorities for the construction of the Wagirra Trail.

Part B – Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan

- Develop a revised, more detailed Master Plan for Albury Central Riverside Parks.

Some preliminary internal and external stakeholder consultation was undertaken in 2020 as part of the initial Stakeholder Engagement Plan, with the intent to better understand how the community interact with areas along the Murray River and Lake Hume, as well as prioritise some of the areas for potential improvement. The initial feedback received from the community has been used to inform the review of the MRE Master Plan, and it is now timely to move into Phase Two Community Consultation and test some of the findings and priorities, prior to refining documentation in readiness for public exhibition.

Due to the large scale of the project and the extended timelines, the initial Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been reviewed and updated to include Phase Two Community Consultation that will allow for further refinement of MRE documentation prior to moving into public exhibition phase (Attachment 1).

Prior to commencing Phase Two Consultation, endorsement of the revised Stakeholder Engagement Plan is now being sought.

Issues

Towards Albury 2050 Community Plan

A Growing Sustainable Economy:

1.2 Albury has an accessible, integrated transport network that connects our city through safe and efficient travel options.

1.2.1 Effectively plan, upgrade and maintain our network of roads, bridges, cycleways, footpaths, walkways and street lighting.

1.3 Albury will offer diverse and innovative tourism experiences to attract new and repeat visitation.

1.3.3 Investigate partnerships to attract visitors to our region, and increase the diversity in attractions, events and facilities for our community and visitors.

A Natural Environment:

2.2 Albury embraces the cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

2.2.1 Our Community values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander's Cultural Heritage, through the preservation and celebration for future generations, with the adoption of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's land management practices.

2.4 Albury is a recognised leader in the conservation and management of our natural assets.

2.4.3 Acknowledge our connection to the natural environment by providing opportunities for the community to connect and respectfully enjoy our natural environment.

A Caring Community:

3.1 Albury's local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is empowered through self-determination.

3.1.2 Advocate and collaborate for the priorities of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative groups.

3.3 Our community values arts, culture, heritage and place. All residents share and celebrate our multiculturalism in a welcoming and open community.

3.3.3 Our spaces will provide a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for our community to enjoy.

3.5 Albury is a safe, inclusive and accessible region for our entire community.

3.5.2 Our buildings and spaces are designed to be inclusive and accessible to all community members.

3.5.3 AlburyCity will create safe spaces and places by using the latest technology and approaches available.

3.6 Albury is a vibrant region that values the enrichment offered by arts and cultural activities and provides for diverse lifestyles and experiences.

3.6.1 Albury will create vibrant and interesting public and cultural spaces and places that support and encourage the development of, participation in, and celebration of arts and culture.

3.6.3 Albury will provide a diverse range of experiences – including entertainment, art and cultural experiences and sport and community-driven events.

Risk

- **Business Risk** – the MRE Master Plan is a high-level concept plan. The revised Stakeholder Engagement Plan will assist in coordinating the phases of consultation throughout the project and ensure that the community has a say on the project through the development phases.

- **Corporate Risk** – developing master plans for sites provides a strategic direction for all key stakeholders and Council. It is also critical to achieving grant funding, and this creates a positive image for Council. The endorsement of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project provides a framework whereby stakeholders and wider community can have input into the development of the master plans.

- **WHS and Public Risk** – these are not considered in the development of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan however will be considered at a high level during the master planning process.

- **Environmental Risk** - these are not considered as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan however will be considered through the design phases as each project in the master plan has funding to progress.

- **Delivery Program Risk** – endorsement of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will allow the Phase Two Consultation to commence. This consultation phase has an anticipated budget of $10,000 and will be undertaken between December 2023 - March 2024. Feedback from this phase will be used to further refine the draft MRE Master Plan documentation which will then be presented to Council for consideration and endorsement for public exhibition (anticipated in mid-2024). Not endorsing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will delay completion of the MRE Master Plan review and likely have impacts on the projects associated with the MRE in the Four-Year Delivery Program.

Community Engagement

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed for the project in 2020 that included two phases ("Have Your Say" and Public Exhibition). A "Have your Say" process was initiated at the commencement of the MRE Master Plan review process which involved an online survey and key stakeholder meetings.

Due to the large scale of the project and extended timeframes, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the project has been reviewed, updated and requires Council endorsement prior to the commencement of Phase Two Community Consultation (Attachment 1).

The updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan includes the following:

Phase 1: "Have Your Say" #1 (completed in 2020)

- Opportunity to raise awareness of the project.
- Initial input on the MRE Review.

Phase 2: "Have Your Say" #2 (Proposed December 2023 - March2024)

- Test some of the key items included in the MRE review and gain feedback on the next priorities.

Phase 3: Public Exhibition (Proposed mid 2024)

- Public Exhibition opportunity for formal feedback on the draft MRE Review and associated documents.

Options

1. Endorse the revised MRE Review Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

This is the preferred option as the 2020 Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been reviewed and updated to reflect the additional consultation stage, which will be used to further refine the draft MRE Master Plan documentation prior to presentation to Council for consideration and endorsement for public exhibition. **Recommended;** or

2. Not endorse the MRE Master Plan Review Stakeholder Engagement Plan and request amendments.

This option is not recommended as the inclusion of an additional consultation step will provide the community with an opportunity to have input into the project prior to finalising draft documentation and prior to presenting the draft MRE documents for consideration and endorsement followed by the public exhibition process. **Not recommended.**

Conclusion

The Murray River Experience Master Plan was endorsed in 2007 and is an overarching strategic plan for improving access to and infrastructure along the Murray River. Since its initial endorsement, significant investment has been made on projects associated with the Master Plan which has transformed the way the community interacts with the river. These works have been instrumental in achieving the key Murray River Experience objectives which seek to strengthen the relationship between the community and the Murray River, provide greater access to the Murray River, provide quality amenities in all open spaces and promote and develop a diversity of experiences.

Now that key signature projects are complete, it is timely to review the Murray River Experience Master Plan and identify the next priorities. In giving effect to this, consultants were engaged to review the Murray River Experience Master Plan in two parts:

- Draft Murray River Experience Master Plan Review - Part A; and
- Draft Central Albury Riverside Parks Master Plan - Part B.

Some preliminary internal and external stakeholder consultation was undertaken in 2020 as part of the initial Stakeholder Engagement Plan, with the intent to better understand how the community interact with areas along the Murray River and Lake Hume, as well prioritise some of the areas for potential improvement. Due to the large scale of the project and the extended timelines, the initial Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been reviewed and updated to include Phase Two Community Consultation that will allow for further refinement of Murray River Experience documentation prior to moving into public exhibition phase (Attachment 1).

Prior to commencing Phase Two Community Consultation, endorsement of the revised Stakeholder Engagement Plan is now being sought.

Recommendation

That Council receive and endorse the revised Murray River Experience Master Plan Review Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Attachments

1. Murray River Experience Master Plan Review – Stakeholder Engagement Plan (DOC23/423336).