

## 6.2.6 Pakenham LXP - Community Asset Upgrades

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### Recommendation(s)

That Council:

- delegates the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), on behalf of Council, to negotiate and approve the scope of improved community assets that form part of the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXP) project, with the LXP project authority.
- Notes the principles for the improved community assets that will inform the negotiations include the following:
  - Value for money.
  - Needed in the community.
  - Consistent with feedback from community about the project and open space in Cardinia.
  - Consistent with the existing and future aspirations of the Pakenham Major Activity Centre, other Council policies, strategies, and Council's Vision for the project.
  - Will not present an extraordinary maintenance burden into the future.

### Attachments

Nil

### Executive Summary

Level Crossing Removal Project have provided the opportunity for Council's officers and the CEO to discuss and negotiate additional improvements to community assets in and around the project area. Council officers are seeking endorsement to progress these negotiations.

This report includes clear principles that will be used to inform which community assets will be provided in the open space areas created through the Pakenham Level Crossing Removal Project. Council has identified the opportunity to achieve some localised capital enhancements within the LXP area or connected to the project area above the base project scope that has been proposed. This will be negotiated through the Land and Asset Agreement with the Level Crossing Removal Project, that includes funding for the future maintenance of the area.

The expectations for the upgrades are to balance the provision of improved facilities and spaces for the community whilst ensuring these areas are functional and maintainable into the future. The following key principles for any asset upgrades above the base scope of the project have been identified. These will provide a sound base for the community assets upgrades, ensuring they are sustainable into the future, and achieve the best outcome for the community.

#### *Principles:*

- Value for money: The infrastructure and community asset upgrades are reasonably priced with savings through aligning timing and delivery of the improvements.

- Need in the community: Infrastructure and community assets that are needed for the community providing improved accessibility, connectivity with the assets and facilities to meet the needs of the community.
- Consistent with feedback from community about the project and open space in Cardinia: The proposed upgrades are consistent with suggestions made in the community feedback that was conducted by LXR in 2021 and within the community consultation relating to Council's Open Space Strategy.
- Consistent with the existing and future aspirations of the Pakenham Major Activity Centre, other Council policies, strategies and Council's Vision for the project: Key infrastructure that will encourage the revitalisation of Pakenham including the directly interfacing areas along the project corridor, with community spaces facilitating community connection, interaction and engagement.
- Will not present an extraordinary maintenance burden into the future; To ensure that the ongoing maintenance of any improvements will not be an excessive cost for Council into the future.

## Background

The Level Crossing Removal Project (LXR) incorporates the McGregor Road, Main Street and Racecourse Road level crossings with an elevated rail solution providing for open space and connection opportunities between the north and south of the Pakenham. The Pakenham Station redevelopment is elevated with integrated bus exchange and parking with the extension of the metropolitan line to a new station east of Pakenham to be known as East Pakenham Station.

Council resolution 17 August 2020 noted that Council support the Level Crossing Removal Project Pakenham and Pakenham Station Redevelopment whilst advocating for the project to include:

- *Improvements to support and enhance opportunities for existing and future businesses.*
- *Integration of the train station, bus exchange and car parking with the town centre and surrounding communities including improved pedestrian connections.*
- *Provision of safe, functional, and maintainable community spaces.*
- *Improvement of amenity of the area including landscaping throughout the precinct.*
- *Provision of improved traffic circulation including new pedestrian and bicycle connections that are integrated with existing paths.*
- *Minimal disruption to local businesses and wider community during construction.*

Council officers are continuing to work with the Level Crossing Removal Project to advocate for these project outcomes. Council officers have identified the opportunity to discuss and negotiate additional improvements to community asset in and around the project area. Council has a time critical opportunity to advance negotiations regarding the legacy community assets for the LXR area and surrounds. Clear principles have been developed to progress negotiations and inform decisions regarding asset requirements.

Council officers are seeking Council's endorsement for Council's CEO to negotiate on behalf of Council with the LXR authority's representatives to achieve the capital improvements to the project area and surrounds in accordance with Council's endorsed advocacy position and the abovementioned principles.

## Policy Implications

The project is consistent with previous Council lobbying for the Level Crossing Removal of the three level crossings within Pakenham which is clearly identified in the Council Plan, the Cardinia Planning Scheme and in the adopted Pakenham Structure Plan 2019 and Pakenham Major Activity Centre Urban Design Framework 2019.

## Relevance to Council Plan

### 1.1 We empower our communities to be healthy, connected and resilient

1.1.2 Enrich local identity and opportunities for the community to connect through art, history and cultural expression.

1.1.4 Facilitate a partnership approach to create safer communities.

### 2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places

2.1.1 Advocate, plan for and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services that address community need.

2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.

2.1.4 Advocate for increased and more-connected public transport options.

### 3.1 We value our natural assets and support our biodiversity to thrive

3.1.4 Plan and advocate for better water cycle planning and management to reduce environmental impacts.

### 5.1 We practise responsible leadership

5.1.4 Maximise value for our community through efficient service delivery, innovation, strategic partnerships and advocacy.

## Climate Emergency Consideration

The proposed infrastructure upgrade will improve public transport provision and activity transport infrastructure in the area and reduce the need for use of cars reducing impacts in terms of the climate emergency. Further the new infrastructure will be designed and maintained in line with climate change predictions and assumptions, such as flooding and extreme heat.

## Consultation/Communication

The project is being managed and delivered by the LXR and State Government. The community has been able to directly input into the design through the LXR community consultation in October 2021. Additionally, Council's project team have regular meetings with their state government peers at LXR to review plans and provide input into the design of the projects and advocate for the best outcome for the community. Additionally, Council's Chief Executive Officer, General Manager Liveable Communities and General Manager Infrastructure and Environment meet with the CEO and senior staff from Level Crossing Removal Project, to resolve any strategic issues and advocate for the best outcomes for the community.

## Financial and Resource Implications

The final open space design and assets will have both financial and resource implications in regard to the long-term maintenance, however this is still to be determined. It is proposed that a Land and Asset Agreement with the Level Crossing Removal Project is negotiated by Council's delegate and the LXR authority and this will include the provision of jointly agreed funding for maintenance of Council new assets for up to 10 years and agreed capital upgrades. The improvements to community assets will assist in the revitalisation of Pakenham

and will transform the open spaces. The new and enhanced open space will promote visitation, community connectivity and physical activity.

**Conclusion**

Council will continue to work in partnership with the LXP authority to create safe, accessible, and vibrant public places that will revitalise Pakenham and improve community wellbeing and connectedness. Any future upgrades to infrastructure will need to meet the needs of the current and future community, be value for money and align with Council's Vision, endorsed policies and strategies.