

# MINUTES

**SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING**

**WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL**

**5:45 PM - MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2020**



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## **VENUE:**

**Reception Room  
25 Liebig Street  
Warrnambool**

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### **COUNCILLORS**

Cr. Vicki Jellie AM (Mayor)  
Cr. Otha Akoch  
Cr. Debbie Arnott  
Cr. Ben Blain  
Cr. Angie Paspaliaris  
Cr. Max Taylor  
Cr. Richard Ziegeler

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**Vikki King**  
**ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## **AUDIO RECORDING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS****Page No.**

1. OPENING PRAYER & ORIGINAL CUSTODIANS STATEMENT .....	5
2. APOLOGIES.....	5
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	5
4. DECLARATION BY COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS OF ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.....	6
5. REPORTS .....	7
5.1. ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE 2021 .....	7
5.2. APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES & EXTERNAL BODIES.....	8
5.3. OCTOBER FINANCE REPORT .....	12
5.4. ACTIVITIES & INITIATIVES 2020-2021: JULY - SEPTEMBER (QUARTER 1).....	24
5.5. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE BIENNIAL REPORT .....	59
5.6. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER.....	65
5.7. DRAFT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY.....	67
5.8. DRAINAGE ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - POST CONSULTATION.....	84
5.9. CCTV SYSTEMS - POLICY, STEERING COMMITTEE AND ANNUAL REPORTING.....	150
5.10. CONSIDERATION OF TENDER SUBMISSIONS FOR TENDER NO 2021019 CONSTRUCTION WORKS FOOTPATH RENEWAL.....	186
5.11. POLICY REVIEW - PROJECT MANAGEMENT POLICY .....	188
5.12. POLICY REVIEW - SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME POLICY .....	198
5.13. COMMUNITY HOUSING REVIEW .....	207
5.14. CITY CENTRE CAR PARKING - EXTENSION OF FREE PARKING .....	216
5.15. ADVISORY COMMITTEE & REFERENCE GROUP REPORTS .....	219
5.16. MAYORAL & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER COUNCIL ACTIVITIES - SUMMARY REPORT.....	255
5.17. INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCIL REPORTS.....	256
6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME .....	260
7. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING FOR SECTION 66 IN-CAMERA CONFIDENTIAL ITEM.....	262
7.1. RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN MEETING .....	262
8. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING.....	262
8.1. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING.....	262

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9. SECTION 66 (IN-CAMERA) .....	262
9.1. AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS .....	262
10. RESOLUTION TO RE-OPEN MEETING.....	262
10.1. RESOLUTION TO RE-OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC .....	262
11. CLOSE OF MEETING .....	262

PORT OF WARRNAMBOOL - PORT REFERENCE GROUP MEETING ACTION AND AGREEMENT RECORD				
<b>Date:</b>	14 September 2020      Time: 5.00 PM      Finish: 5.55 PM      Online Zoom Meeting			
<b>Meeting Objective:</b>	Update on the dredging project.			
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p>REFERENCE GROUP MEMBERS : Craig Hartwich (CH), Neville Dance (ND), Steve Tippet (ST), Leon Van Kempen (LVK), Keith Prest (KP), Rod Blake (RB) Tammy Good(TG), Bruce Campbell (BC),</p> <p>WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL : Mayor Tony Herbert (TH), Cr Robert Anderson (RA), Cr Peter Sycopoulis (PS), Cr David Owen (DO), Glenn Reddick (GR), Luke Coughlan (LC), Thomas Hall (ThH), Paula Gardiner (PG)., Don Allen (DA)</p> <p>STATE GOVERNMENT:</p> <p>DELWP – Claire Tesselaar (CT)</p> <p>TRANSPORT FOR VICTORIA – Lynn Kisler (LK), Marcus Higgins (MH).</p>			
<b>Apologies:</b>	Ross Martin (RM)			
<b>Absent:</b>	<p>REFERENCE GROUP MEMBERS : Michael Artz (MA), Russell Worland (RW), Lisa Owen (LO), Hugh Parker (HP).</p> <p>WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL : Cr Sue Cassidy (SC), Cr Kylie Gaston (KG), Cr Michael Neoh (MN), Vikki King (VK)</p> <p>TRANSPORT FOR VICTORIA – Gary Gaffney (GG), Daniel Heley (DH).</p>			
No	Schedule	Description	Who	Notes
1.	5:00-5:05	Welcome and Introductions	Chair – Mayor Tony Herbert	Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.  ND advised that Rod Blake would be attending but likely to arrive at 5:15pm
2.	-	Declaration of Councillor Conflicts of Interest and Assembly of Councillors Record	Chair – Mayor Tony Herbert	None identified upon meeting commencement.  Action: ThH to seek confirmation at next reference

**Code of Cooperation**

We start on time and finish on time

We all participate and contribute – everyone is given opportunity to voice their opinions

We use improvement tools that enhance meeting efficiency and effectiveness

We actively listen to what others have to say, seeking first to understand, then to be understood

We follow-up on the actions we are assigned responsibility for and complete them on time

We give and receive open and honest feedback in a constructive manner

We use data to make decisions (whenever possible)

We strive to continually improve our meeting process and build time into each agenda for reflection

				group meeting and complete an Assembly of Councillors Record.
3.	5:05-5:35	Reference Group Previous Meeting Minutes (10 August 2020) - Refer email received and attached to agenda for discussion.	Chair – Mayor Tony Herbert	<p>Prior to consideration to previous meeting minutes, it was requested by Neville Dance that the following statement be recorded.</p> <p>An objection be recorded that Neville Dance, Rod Blake, Steve Tippet, and Tammy Good do not support Option 4 as a dredging treatment, but do support the need for ongoing dredging and that Government needs to provide a solid commitment to dredging across the next 10 years as required. In addition that if Option 4 does not work then this option will not be repeated.</p> <p>Lynn Kisler – DOT clarified that a funding request to Government needs to justify the request based on cost and benefit.</p> <p>Correction to apologies from meeting of 10 August 2020 – Bruce Campbell was an apology for the meeting</p> <p>Previous meeting minutes accepted Moved: Leon Van Kempen Seconded: Cr Peter Sycopoulis Passed unanimously</p>
4.	5:35-5:45	Correspondence Received Indicating Questions and Concerns	Chair – Mayor Tony Herbert	Responses to correspondence forwarded via email on Monday 14 September. Opportunity to ask further questions extended.

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				<p>BC: noted concern for rip to be formed if a sand bar is created.</p> <p>ThH: Discussed around options and condition of beach. The consultants will undertake further investigation for option 4 and will be able to determine if the spoil will have potential to create a rip.</p> <p>RB: noted letter response late arriving and haven't had a chance to review. Did note that a request was made to have AW and Water Tech to attend. Are they to attend?</p> <p>ThH: Are at hand, however not included in the invite as written response has been provided.</p> <p>RB: Due to late arrive of response, this doesn't enable us to ask further questions. Aim of meeting was to ask questions.</p> <p>ThH: aim of meeting to share information to the broader group and if there were further questions to be on notice</p> <p>RB: not all questions have been answered.</p> <p>CT: questions could be forwarded if reference group members have further questions.</p> <p>PS: agreed with Mr Blake that the answers were to</p>
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				<p>be provided by the consultants.</p> <p>ThH: the questions have been raised previously and has been discussed previously.</p> <p>RB: will dredging for the boat ramp been included in water tech dredging project.</p> <p>ThH: The boat ramp will be dredging, which was discussed at the boat ramp meeting.</p> <p>Timing for dredging will be unlikely to align for construction, however would aim to align with further maintenance dredging for the pocket and for the boat ramp. The necessary dredging will be completed when the boat ramp is constructed.</p> <p>RB: won't have maintenance dredge until triggers, how will the boat ramp work if the dredging for the boat ramp isn't done.</p> <p>Clarification provided that dredging request for the boat ramp will be done when the capital works are undertaken.</p> <p>CT: further information is available to the permit requirements, and can be provided.</p> <p>Any further questions from Reference Group Members to be forwarded via email to Thomas Hall.</p>
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5.	5:45-5:55	<p>Project Timing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anticipated Dates and Milestones</li> <li>Communication with Port Reference Group</li> </ul>	Thomas Hall	<p>If and when funding becomes available Council will be pursuing funding applications for the boat ramp and the dredging projects.</p> <p>Next catch is programmed for December, however updates will be provided via emails as they become available.</p> <p>Next meeting will be seeking confirmation of membership and meeting occurrences. The meeting frequency has increased during these projects, and the time and commitment from the Reference Group Members is appreciated.</p> <p>TH: The major projects, carpark, boat ramp, dredging and breakwater.</p> <p>ThH: There is another component of the project which is the fleshing out the concept of an enclosed harbour. This is part of the project work and contract that is in place with AW Maritime.</p> <p>TG: understanding that funding applications due at end of next month. Will that be the next milestone.</p> <p>Funding rounds have not been announced or released at this stage, so will not be able to know exactly what funding criteria is until the funding rounds are announced.</p> <p>If funding criteria allows, could apply for dredging and boat ramp.</p>
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				Refurbishment of breakwater funding may not be until December.
6.	5:55-6:00	General Business Items	Thomas Hall	<p>TG: use for sand going forward could be used for filling sandbags for replenishing the beach. That could be an option for capturing the sand in large bags to be placed on the beach to renourish.</p> <p>CT: to seek further information from other regions to understand if that has been done in other areas.</p>
7.	6:00	Confirmation of actions for delivery to be detailed within Minutes	Chair – Mayor Tony Herbert	<p>Mayor – thanked the group for their commitment and comments and for their desire to move in the one direction to make significant improvements to the harbour area. Thank you for your patience and willingness to work together.</p> <p>RB: Thanked the Mayor for his enthusiasm for advancing the improvements and upgrade of the boat ramp project, and for progressing the project to be in a position to approach the government for funding.</p>
8.	-	Next Meeting - Review of membership in terms		December 2020

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## **Reference Group Members concerns regarding the Meetings and Proposed Outcomes**

**We have concerns regarding the running of the meetings and the recording of the minutes. EG Lack of detail & names speaking for or against Proposals.**

**Lack of Acknowledgement of the qualified input of Community Reference Group Members (CRG).** CRG members whilst being heard are not listened to. Why are we here if no one acknowledges what we say? The meeting of August 10, 2020, was hijacked to have discussions only on Option 4. We are treated with total contempt.

**At commencement of each meeting we should all be apprised as to who is in attendance for the "Zoom" meeting.** We are currently unsure as to who is actually in the meetings as not all speak. We assume that the meetings are held with the participants only & no other persons are present in the background - Perhaps a declaration from participants regarding this.

**There are persons now involved in the "Zoom" meetings from Warrnambool City Council (WCC)** and other areas that have no previous involvement, have no history in the processes previously undertaken either through the Technical Reference Group (TRG) or the community Reference Group (CRG). Whilst we believe the TRG were paid, we on the CRG are not & we give our time freely on a matter that we are most passionate about as local Warrnambool Residents and regular users of the facility. **Where are the members of the TRG and where is their input?**

**There will be around 30000 cubic metres (CM) dredged out of Lady Bay.** Half of the 30000 CM will eventually find its way back into the dredged area of Lady Bay with the known 10000 CM (per annum) which also enters Lady Bay from the Southern Ocean. Eventually we will have 35000 CM in the inner bay area from Worm Bay to the Breakwater (Including the trapezoid shaped dredged area) to dredge out if dredging is undertaken every 2 years.

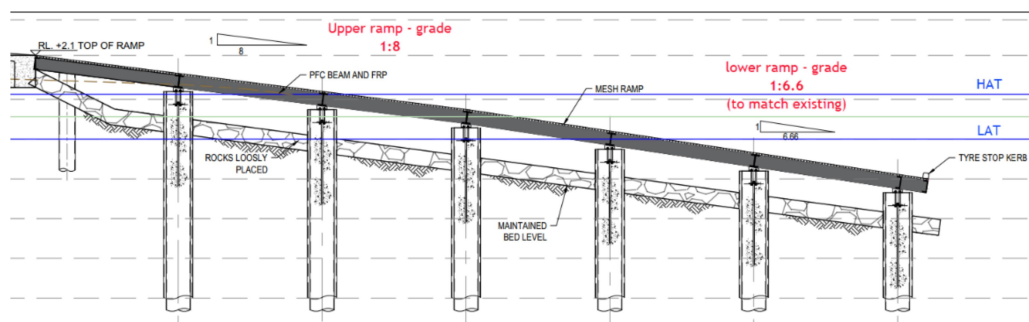
### **What if the Dredging does not Work?**

If the proposed process with the nearshore Sand Bars moves to fruition and it does not work! **Who is liable?**

Do Water Technology (WT) then fix the problem at their expense? Do WT have liability insurance to cover this issue or is it swept under the carpet for Warrnambool Ratepayers / Tax payers to foot the bill?

This dredging is an extremely important part for the ramp construction to work and if the dredging fails then so will the Ramp. So, if the dredging fails - How long do we, the citizens / ratepayers / tourists have to wait for the debarkle to be rectified? & Who Pays?

With reference to AW Maritime proposed porous boat ramp, they require a bed of rocks under the ramp surface to absorb wave energy. See diagram below,



WT informed the CRG that they require CD -3.5m for the proposed ramp to work effectively. It has been stated by WT they require the area around the toe of the ramp to be dredged to this depth. Is that dredging going to take place to coincide with the dredging of the boat mooring area??

If not, is it proposed to get another dredge back to fulfil WT requirements - do WT have an opinion on this presently, and would it be prudent to include them into dredge requirements??

**The treatment of the Community Reference Group is deplorable.** We were advised after the WCC ran an online survey regarding these dredging options and that Option 1 was clearly the most preferred. WCC was then to hold discussions with DELWP to facilitate this to occur - This has not happened so the big question is - **Why have these discussions not been held ??**

What is WCC preferred option? Is it still aligned with the Warrnambool residents preferred option via the public questionnaire being Option 1, OR has the WCC positioned itself and is now aligned with that of Water Technology??

Will WCC take some notice of the anecdotal evidence provided by locals that the last time the dredge spoils were dumped into Lady Bay in approx. 1978-9, the sand mound soon was washed away and most of the sand made its way back into the inner harbour area which obviously includes the dredged area? A short term problem solved, but what a waste of money as the dredging was required again soon after. This is a fact that has not been addressed, WT thinks that the majority of the sand will just wash up on the beach, when history demonstrates that is just not correct!!!

We request a meeting with parties to discuss our concerns

Neville Dance      Rod Blake      Steve Tippet      Tammy Good

Community Reference Group Members

Warrnambool

August 20, 2020

**Questions for DWELP**

1. If option 3 was WCC preferred option as the site for the dredge spoils to be pumped, would DELWP broadly object to this option?
2. If DELWP are so insistent to keep the area proposed (behind the sand dunes in the area where previous dredge spoils were dumped) as not utilised, what are the long term plans for that area given that land is a haven for vermin (foxes, rats)?
3. In essence why is the land being locked up when community can use said area for extra car/ boat trailer/ horse floats / recreational and also have enough for the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF). If NOT why not!!!
4. Does DELWP consider community sentiment when dictating to local users what can be developed and what can't?
5. What are the State Govt law/ guidelines which need to be acknowledged and satisfied before the dredge spoils can be pumped into a CDF? Please define these specifically, not paint a broad view.
6. DELWP as a Government Department is a coastal manager. Do they consider themselves part of the local community and therefore part of the decision making process which allow for public opinion & views to be considered regarding WCC proposed projects. Specifically the proposed dredging of the dredge pocket of inner Lady Bay and disposal of the dredge spoils.
7. Does DELWP (or known previously as DSE) as a Govt department have any historical documentation relating to the dredging program conducted during 1978/9, when the dredge spoils were dumped into Lady Bay. A position approximately in line between McGennans Car Park and end of the breakwater.
8. Is DELWP aware that the EPA guidelines state that their preferred option for dredge spoils is; ***"Dredge spoil is disposed to land in preference to water wherever practicable and environmentally safe as determined by the Authority."***
9. Does DELWP proposal allowing the dredge spoils to be pumped into Lady Bay discounting the public use of the bay as per their social licence.

**Questions for Water Tech**

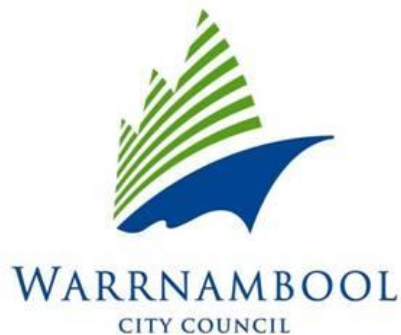
- a) Can you please provide a breakdown of the costs of the options 1, 3 & 4?
- b) For a 10 year program can you confirm that the costings involved in major dredging followed up with 2 maintenance dredges?
- c) Has your document been peer reviewed as is the requirement for such major projects, as your consultancy work
- d) As per your Appendix A document regarding the dredge spoils water component, is it not true that the water from any CDF would make its way back to the ocean as the water table so close to the bay is salty. It would naturally leech back through the sand to the ocean as MSL would allow.
- e) Can you please give precise Lat & Long WGS 84 for the proposed dredge area?

- f) Have WT spoken to or contacted AW Maritime re their dredging requirements at the toe of the existing boat ramp?
- g) Has WT used the latest bathymetric survey and overlaid the precise area it proposes to dump the sand in option 4?
- h) In your Appendix A, 4.4 "The results of the sediment analysis indicated...), when was this analysis completed and where was the material sourced from? Sorry can't quote page numbers because there aren't any!
- i) 4.7 of your AppA, states the following " .. where sand would migrate towards the shore due to sediment imbalance in the profile, which mimics the upper beach recovery process following major storms."  
What exactly are you referring to here, because as it reads it is factually incorrect, major storms cause the depletion of sand from the dunes and just sucks it back into the bay – an observed fact!!! That's why the dunes are in such a state, due to wave action eating away at the base and levelling the sand out into the bay.
- j) When considering option 4, are you underestimating the longshore drift effect which moves sand from the east to the SW & S into the inner harbour area & dredge pocket? Can you substantiate the "over time" you refer to please?

**WCC Public Q**

Has the Water Tech document Appendix A- Dredging Options Assessment- Technical Report been peer reviewed?

This is due to some inaccuracies which have been highlighted, and lead to a flawed document being presented to WCC.



## **Port of Warrnambool – Port Reference Group Meeting Action and Agreement Record**

**Date:** 14 September 2020

### **Agenda Item 3: Reference Group Previous Meeting Minutes (10 August 2020)**

**Email 1:** Steve Tippett, Neville Dance, Rodney Blake and Tammy Good (HRG Members) – Thursday 10 September 2020\_12.36pm

**Email 2:** Paula Gardiner – Thursday 10 September\_2.51pm

**Email 3:** Steve Tippett – Friday 11 September\_9.44pm

**Email 4:** Tammy Good – Friday 11 September\_12.10pm

**Email 5:** Rod Blake – Friday 11 September\_12.13pm



## Email 1

**From:** [Steve Tippett](#)  
**To:** [Thomas Hall](#); [Don Allen](#); [tammygood@bigpond.com](#); [Tony Herbert](#); [prests@bigpond.net.au](#); [rjb1@bigpond.com](#); [David Owen](#); [craig@homeseeka.com.au](#); [secretary@warrnamboolslsc.org.au](#); [Kylie Gaston](#); [Warmamboolcoastcareandcare@gmail.com](#); [neville.dance1@bigpond.com](#); [bassnake03@gmail.com](#); [Glenn Reddick](#); [Sue Cassidy](#); [hugh@figtreepark.com](#); [leonyk@hotmail.com](#); [Robert Anderson](#); [Peter Sycopoulis](#); [Michael Neoh](#); [neville@danceconstructions.com.au](#); [Vikki King](#); ["Leigh McClusky"](#); [Paula Gardiner](#)  
**Subject:** Zoom meeting Minutes amendments  
**Date:** Thursday, 10 September 2020 12:36:36 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Afternoon Thomas,

My self and others have voiced our concerns regarding the dredging and other matters during the Zoom meetings conducted with the Harbour Reference Group (HRG), City councillors, DELWP, AW Maritime & other WCC staff. Recently the minutes of these meetings have not reflected any conversations had not any objections voiced by members of the HRG regarding the dredging of the bay and in particular where the spoils are to be placed. It is incumbent on the WCC that the minutes reflect accurately the discussions had – This is currently not the case.

We request that the HRG meeting/s minutes be amended accordingly and that this be done prior to the meeting to be held Monday, September 14 @ 5.00pm. The minutes can then be ratified if they correctly reflect the discussions held, individual conversations had and the objections made.

For your attention please

Steve Tippett Neville Dance Rodney Blake Tammy Good

HRG Members

**Email 2**

**From:** [Paula Gardiner](#)  
**To:** ["Steve Tippett"](#); [Thomas Hall](#); [Don Allen](#); [tammygood@bigpond.com](#); [Tony Herbert](#); [prests@bigpond.net.au](#); [rjb1@bigpond.com](#); [David Owen](#); [craig@homeseeka.com.au](#); [secretary@warrnamboolslsc.org.au](#); [Kylie Gaston](#); [Warrnamboolcoastcarelandcare@gmail.com](#); [neville.dance1@bigpond.com](#); [basssnake03@gmail.com](#); [Glenn Reddick](#); [Sue Cassidy](#); [hugh@figtreepark.com](#); [leonvk@hotmail.com](#); [Robert Anderson](#); [Peter Sycopoulis](#); [Michael Neoh](#); [neville@danceconstructions.com.au](#); [Vikki King](#); ["Leigh McClusky"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Zoom meeting Minutes amendments  
**Date:** Thursday, 10 September 2020 2:51:00 PM

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Afternoon Steve,

Thanks for your email regarding the minutes from the Harbour Reference Group Meetings. As per standard meeting procedures, the minutes are distributed following each meeting and then ratified at the next scheduled meeting. It is at this time that any corrections to the minutes are identified and considered by the attendees of the meeting, and where required corrections and or amendments are recorded prior to the previous meeting minutes being ratified and adopted.

If you could please send through the correction/s that you, and the other representatives named in your email, have identified as required from the previous meeting minutes, we will include this for consideration by the reference group at next Monday's meeting. Ideally if this could be received by tomorrow lunchtime, we will forward this with the agenda.

Thanks  
Paula

---

**Email 3**

**From:** [Steve Tippet](#)  
**To:** [Paula Gardiner](#); [Thomas Hall](#); [Don Allen](#); [tammymood@bigpond.com](#); [Tony Herbert](#); [prests@bigpond.net.au](#); [rjib1@bigpond.com](#); [David Owen](#); [craig@homeseeka.com.au](#); [secretary@warrnamboolslsc.org.au](#); [Kylie Gaston](#); [Warrnamboolcoastcareandcare@gmail.com](#); [neville.dance1@bigpond.com](#); [bassnake03@gmail.com](#); [Glenn Reddick](#); [Sue Cassidy](#); [hugh@figtreepark.com](#); [leonyk\\_@hotmail.com](#); [Robert Anderson](#); [Peter Sycopoulis](#); [Michael Neoh](#); [neville@danceconstructions.com.au](#); [Vikki King](#); "Leigh McClusky"  
**Subject:** RE: Zoom meeting Minutes amendments  
**Date:** Friday, 11 September 2020 9:44:22 AM

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Morning Paula,

Since the introduction of the Zoom meetings as a consequence of Covid 19 restrictions we have seen the minutes change – since the Zoom – there have been no acknowledged comments from any of the HRG members being lodged in the minutes. I don't know why?

Concerns regarding comments are then obvious. If a neutral party were to peruse the minutes regarding the dredging then they would think that all parties are agreeable to the whatever the concept was and that there was no argument against it. When clearly there was.

**Raised concerns –**

Placing the dredged material nearshore in Lady Bay has been undertaken before (1978) and failed. Why are we repeating history ?

By placing the dredged material in Lady Bay WCC are going to produce two sand bars nearshore, in roughly Worm Bay and in front of McGennan's car park area. Two very safe swimming locations on the beach, which has the potential to create a rip effect between the 2 created sand bars, which has also caused some concern to a representative of the Warrnambool Surf Life Saving Club

Ocean Swimmers – Lady Bay may alter making the swim more difficult – have they been consulted?

This dredging has been on the books for WCC for several years and now it is of some urgency that other Options are just discarded and we go with Option 4.

It was also raised as to how Water Technology can make a comparison with The Gold Coast and Lady Bay as to Nearshore dredging spoils where the two locations have completely different dynamics. We are on the southern Ocean – nothing between us and The Antarctic

I'm sure others will also have a view and comments.

Regards

SteveTip

---

**Email 4**

**From:** [tammygood@bigpond.com](mailto:tammygood@bigpond.com)  
**To:** [Paula Gardiner](#); ["Steve Tippet"](#); [Thomas Hall](#); [Don Allen](#); [Tony Herbert](#); [prests@bigpond.net.au](#); [rjib1@bigpond.com](#); [David Owen](#); [craig@homeseeka.com.au](#); [secretary@warrnamboolslsc.org.au](#); [Kylie Gaston](#); [Warrnamboolcoastcarelandcare@gmail.com](#); [neville.dance1@bigpond.com](#); [bassnake03@gmail.com](#); [Glenn Reddick](#); [Sue Cassidy](#); [hugh@fotoreepark.com](#); [lsonvk@hotmail.com](#); [Robert Anderson](#); [Peter Sycopoulis](#); [Michael Neoh](#); [neville@danceconstructions.com.au](#); [Vikki King](#); ["Leigh McClusky"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Zoom meeting Minutes amendments  
**Date:** Friday, 11 September 2020 12:10:29 PM

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Hello Paula,

I appreciate minute taking can be painstaking, as I am secretary of SWOTRA, (racehorse trainers), but it is important that input and discussions, have more detail, not lengthy detail, but recording who said what, even if it is in bullet form.

For example the meeting on August 10, item 4, reports, "General discussion held regarding the dredge options".

There were a number of people including councillors who had concerns as to where the dredge spoils were to be deposited, especially the sandbars options. A few examples were;

Steve Tippet (Coastguard) raised concerns that these sandbars could create rips for swimmers in an area that is traditionally a very safe beach for swimming.

Councillor David Owen endorsed these concerns, with his experience at Warrnambool Life Saving Club.

Rodney Blake raised points, that dredging spoils which had previously been put back into the bay only seeped back into the dredged areas. His knowledge is based on historical fact.

Given that the public survey supported the spoils be placed behind worm bay area, it seems that cost effectiveness is overriding both the public and reference groups opinion.

I asked Claire Tesselaar DELWP, if option 4 failed, is it likely that the subsequent dredging spoils be put behind Worm bay dunes?

Can questions from participants be briefly recorded with initials please?

Kind regards

Tammy Good

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**Email 5**

**From:** [Rod Blake](#)  
**To:** [Steve Tippet](#)  
**Cc:** [Paula Gardiner](#); [Thomas Hall](#); [Don Allen](#); [tammywood@bigpond.com](#); [Tony Herbert](#); [Keith Prest](#); [Rod Blake](#); [David Owen](#); [craig@homeseeka.com.au](#); [secretary@warrnamboolslsc.org.au](#); [Kylie Gaston](#); [Warrnamboolcoastcarelandcare@gmail.com](#); [Neville Dance](#); [Glenn Reddick](#); [Sue Cassidy](#); [hugh@figtreepark.com](#); [leonyk\\_@hotmail.com](#); [Robert Anderson](#); [Peter Sycopoulis](#); [Michael Neoh](#); [Neville Dance](#); [Vikki King](#); [Leigh McCusky](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Zoom meeting Minutes amendments  
**Date:** Friday, 11 September 2020 12:13:00 PM

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Afternoon all,  
one very important point that was raised at the HRG zoom meeting was the required dredging for the AW Maritime porous boat ramp. Do we have any indication from Council whether those questions will make the HRG meeting minutes. There are also many questions that need to be responded to at the next meeting, do the respective consultants have the list of questions that was sent to Council so that they can respond at the meeting. We don't want to see them surprised with the laist and have no responses.

Are both parties currently consulting to Council, AW Maritime & Water Tech going to be represented at the meeting?  
Rgds;  
Rod Blake  
HRG member

14 September 2020

Warrnambool Harbour Reference Group Members,  
Representatives and Government Representatives



Email: [Via meeting invitation correspondence scheduled for 14/09/2020](#)

Dear Representatives

**Correspondence Received - Comments Provided**

Council would like to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of the Warrnambool Harbour Reference Group (**Reference Group**) and thanks the group in supporting the ongoing variety of projects to help make Warrnambool Australia's most liveable regional city.

Following the Warrnambool Harbour Reference Group Meeting Held on 10 August 2020 various item had been raised via phone, email and correspondence received on 27 August 2020, in relation to various questions and concerns raised by some members of the Reference Group.

Council wishes to share the following comments with the Reference Group in relation to the items raised in the correspondence revised;

*We have concerns regarding the running of the meetings and the recording of the minutes. EG Lack of detail & names speaking for or against Proposals.*

Comment noted. Should any items wished to be captured that have been excluded please raise at the following meeting.

*Lack of Acknowledgement of the qualified input of Community Reference Group Members (CRG). CRG members whilst being heard are not listened to.*

*Why are we here if no one acknowledges what we say? The meeting of August 10, 2020, was hijacked to have discussions only on Option 4. We are treated with total contempt.*

Comment noted.

*At commencement of each meeting we should all be apprised as to who is in attendance for the "Zoom" meeting. We are currently unsure as to who is actually in the meetings as not all speak. We assume that the meetings are held with the participants only & no other persons are present in the background – Perhaps a declaration from participants regarding this.*

*There are persons now involved in the "Zoom" meetings from Warrnambool City Council (WCC) and other areas that have no previous involvement, have no history in the processes previously undertaken either through the Technical Reference Group (TRG) or the community Reference Group (CRG). Whilst we believe the TRG were paid, we on the CRG are not & we give our time freely on a matter that we are most passionate about as local Warrnambool Residents and regular users of the facility. Where are the members of the TRG and where is their input?*

The list of attendees is available via the agenda, as a list of "Participants" during the online meeting and captured in the minutes.

The TRG were a key part of undertaking a past portion of work, aiding the development options during 2014-15. The TRG is no longer a formed group working on current projects.

Council wishes to extend its gratitude to all representatives who are able to contribute as part of the Reference Group.

*There will be around 30000 cubic metres (CM) dredged out of Lady Bay.*

*Half of the 30000 CM will eventually find its way back into the dredged area of Lady Bay with the known 10000 CM (per annum) which also enters Lady Bay from the Southern Ocean. Eventually we will have 35000 CM in the inner bay area from Worm Bay to the Breakwater (Including the trapezoid shaped dredged area) to dredge out if dredging is undertaken every 2 years.*

*What if the Dredging does not Work?*

*If the proposed process with the nearshore Sand Bars moves to fruition and it does not work! Who is liable?*

*Do Water Technology (WT) then fix the problem at their expense? Do WT have liability insurance to cover this issue or is it swept under the carpet for Warrnambool Ratepayers / Tax payers to foot the bill?*

*This dredging is an extremely important part for the ramp construction to work and if the dredging fails then so will the Ramp. So, if the dredging fails – How long do we, the citizens / ratepayers / tourists have to wait for the debarkle to be rectified? & Who Pays?*

The successes of any dredging work will be measured by a variety of factors. Most critically maintenance dredging will be required.

The following comment is provided from Water Technology for reference; The annual volume ingressing in the harbour is approximately 2,500-4,000m<sup>3</sup> per year. This rate of infill is similar for all options envisaged. The rate of infill is not dependent of sediment supply because the sediment supply greatly exceeds the infill rate. The beach and nearshore zone has a very large sediment supply capacity, enormously higher than the small volume of 2,500-4,000m<sup>3</sup> ingressing in the berth pocket every year. Increasing or decreasing the Lady Bay beach capacity will have a small impact on the rate of infill as long as there are sand in the Bay.

Council appointed Water technology following a competitive tendering assessment process. Their team of suitably qualified and experience personal indicate they are suitable to undertake such work.

*With reference to AW Maritime proposed porous boat ramp, they require a bed of rocks under the ramp surface to absorb wave energy. See diagram below, WT informed the CRG that they require CD -3.5m for the proposed ramp to work effectively. It has been stated by WT they require the area around the toe of the ramp to be dredged to this depth. Is that dredging going to take place to coincide with the dredging of the boat mooring area??*

*If not, is it proposed to get another dredge back to fulfil WT requirements – do WT have an opinion on this presently, and would it be prudent to include them into dredge requirements??*

All maintenance dredging will be programed dependent on the design requirements to maintain the facility.

*The treatment of the Community Reference Group is deplorable. We were advised after the WCC ran an online survey regarding these dredging options and that Option 1 was clearly the most preferred. WCC was then to hold discussions with DELWP to facilitate this to occur – This has not happened so the big question is - Why have these discussions not been held ??*



Comment noted. Council and DELWP have been held ongoing meetings throughout the development of the dredging options assessment.

*What is WCC preferred option? Is it still aligned with the Warrnambool residents preferred option via the public questionnaire being Option 1, OR has the WCC positioned itself and is now aligned with that of Water Technology??*

*Will WCC take some notice of the anecdotal evidence provided by locals that the last time the dredge spoils were dumped into Lady Bay in approx. 1978-9, the sand mound soon was washed away and most of the sand made its way back into the inner harbour area which obviously includes the dredged area? A short term problem solved, but what a waste of money as the dredging was required again soon after. This is a fact that has not been addressed, WT thinks that the majority of the sand will just wash up on the beach, when history demonstrates that is just not correct!!!*

Comment noted. Council's preferred option as resolved at the 7 September 2020 Council Meeting was to progress detailed design of Option 4 to enable a funding application to be made.

*We request a meeting with parties to discuss our concerns*

Comment noted.

**Questions for DWELP**

1. *If option 3 was WCC preferred option as the site for the dredge spoils to be pumped, would DELWP broadly object to this option?*
2. *If DELWP are so insistent to keep the area proposed (behind the sand dunes in the area where previous dredge spoils were dumped) as not utilised, what are the long term plans for that area given that land is a haven for vermin (foxes, rats)?*
3. *In essence why is the land being locked up when community can use said area for extra car/ boat trailer/ horse floats / recreational and also have enough for the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF). If NOT why not!!!*
4. *Does DELWP consider community sentiment when dictating to local users what can be developed and what can't?*
5. *What are the State Govt law/ guidelines which need to be acknowledged and satisfied before the dredge spoils can be pumped into a CDF? Please define these specifically, not paint a broad view.*
6. *DELWP as a Government Department is a coastal manager. Do they consider themselves part of the local community and therefore part of the decision making process which allow for public opinion & views to be considered regarding WCC proposed projects. Specifically the proposed dredging of the dredge pocket of inner Lady Bay and disposal of the dredge spoils.*
7. *Does DELWP (or known previously as DSE) as a Govt department have any historical documentation relating to the dredging program conducted during 1978/9, when the dredge spoils were dumped into Lady Bay. A position approximately in line between McGennans Car Park and end of the breakwater.*
8. *Is DELWP aware that the EPA guidelines state that their preferred option for dredge spoils is; "Dredge spoil is disposed to land in preference to water wherever practicable and environmentally safe as determined by the Authority."*
9. *Does DELWP proposal allowing the dredge spoils to be pumped into Lady Bay discounting the public use of the bay as per their social licence.*

Comment provided from DELWP; Please find following some feedback on considerations and potential approvals required for the various dredging project disposal options.

**Regarding Warrnambool City Council's proposal for dredging behind the breakwater at Lady Bay (i.e. in the boat mooring area).**

The dredging that's proposed (method and area) is consistent across all options, but Council's consultants have identified 4-5 different avenues for disposal (as extracted from the Water Tech report):

1. **Option 1:** This option involves the dredge sand material being pumped into a series of connected retention ponds to be constructed behind the Lady Bay Beach dunes at Worm Bay. This is known as a confined disposal facility (CDF). The CDF would be constructed by clearing existing vegetation within the park, and excavating a pond/dam using earth moving equipment. Some of the dredge sand would be dewatered and removed offsite, and a stockpile would be left permanently on site which may assist with future beach nourishment works.
2. **Option 2:** Pumping the 30,000m<sup>3</sup> of dredged sand onto Lady Bay Beach to nourish the beach and mitigate the observed erosion (beach nourishment). The sand would be pumped to the beach straight from the dredge (as a slurry), and then shaped to the desired beach profile using earth moving equipment.
3. **Option 3:** Hybrid which is a combination of Options 1 and 2. Dewatering and stockpiling of some material behind the dunes in the CDF, and also pumping some along the beach (up to 5,000 m<sup>3</sup>) to widen the dune face.
4. **Option 4:** Pumping the sand into the nearshore of Lady Bay to create a series of temporary sand bars that will be pushed up onto the beach by waves over time and nourish the beach. The material would be pumped via floating pipeline into the designed placement zone, with the outlet moved over time to achieve the desired sand bank shape. The placement is designed to supply sediment to the beach by natural processes. This method has been used extensively across Australia, including at Lakes Entrance.
5. **Option 5:** Marine disposal at an offshore spoil ground located outside of Lady Bay, possibly located some 3 km offshore. This would be achieved by using a hopper dredge to transport sediments from the dredge pocket directly to a deep-sea spoil ground which is large enough to accept the sand.

As previously indicated, it's not DELWP's role to have a preference. This is in recognition that Council has a broader range of matters to balance beyond DELWP's portfolio of interests. What I have said is that based on the Marine and Coastal Policy, an option that retains sand in the system and (hopefully) helps maintain coastal processes is going to better align against the Marine and Coastal Act and Policy; an option which removes sand from the system (i.e. Option 1) or which otherwise doesn't easily align with the Act and policy is going to require a greater level of justification to explain the factors that are perceived to warrant a lesser outcome.

In this context, the options that most easily align with the Marine and Coastal Act and Policy by retaining the sand in the system on or near shore are Option 2 and Option 4.

I expect Council has a solid understanding of the considerations involved with Option 2, having implemented this option previously.

With regard to Option 4, factors that will influence the suitability of this option include whether the dredge spoil can be deposited to an area with a clear sandy bottom within Lady Bay, rather than over an area of reef or weed. This might require closer investigation in terms of underwater survey of the bay. An understanding of the currents in the bay will be an important factor in working out if marine disposal would achieve the desired results and how long they might last, as well as potential impacts during the activity dredging - disposal phase (e.g. turbidity and sediment transport).

Option 5 is not ideal as any contaminants trapped in the dredged materials will be dispersed and 're-activated' into the marine environment. Depending on how offshore disposal is done there is a higher likelihood of impacting a wider range of marine flora and fauna in a range of ways. Disposal should not be carried out near Logans Beach as increased sand in the nearshore environment could affect the topographical habitat characteristics of the nursery, even if only temporarily.

Noise from the dredging activity will be a concern for marine fauna, particularly the Critically Endangered Southern Right Whale, so dredging should be done outside the whale season.

**Questions for Water Tech*****A. Can you please provide a breakdown of the costs of the options 1, 3 & 4?***

Comment provided from Water Technology; "The report provides a breakdown of:

\*Tender estimates of the initial round of dredging (capital costs);

\*10-year life-cycle Net Present Economic Value (NPEV) costs that build on the capital costs and also includes costs associated with maintenance dredging during the 10-year consent period;

\*Total 10-year estimate of required budget. This includes the 10-year lifecycle NPEV costs, as well as a high level estimate of other costs likely to be incurred throughout the life-cycle, including construction contingency, contractual risk, in-kind costs incurred during project delivery, design costs and costs of additional studies, and operational cost of existing beach management.

The costs are indicative and are based on our experience of similar projects. Budget estimates must include risk, contingencies and cost to manage weather and market conditions at the time of tendering the works. Dredging requires substantial upfront mobilisation costs which can be only be fully understood when the project is tendered by dredging contractors. The methodology of the costing is provided in AppA-S4.11.2.

***B. For a 10 year program can you confirm that the costings involved in major dredging followed up with 2 maintenance dredges?***

Comment provided from Water Technology; We can confirm this. Costs include initial round of maintenance dredging and 3 subsequent rounds of maintenance dredging (nominally assumed to occur in years 3, 6 and 9 of the 10yr program). This is stated in AppA-S4.11.2

***C. Has your document been peer reviewed as is the requirement for such major projects, as your consultancy work***

Comment provided from Water Technology; The document, while being a draft document for review, has undergone a rigorous internal review, as per ISO9001 Quality Management system. This system is audited regularly by third parties.

***D. As per your Appendix A document regarding the dredge spoils water component, is it not true that the water from any CDF would make its way back to the ocean as the water table so close to the bay is salty. It would naturally leech back through the sand to the ocean as MSL would allow.***

Comment provided from Water Technology; Whilst some groundwater infiltration would assist in the dewatering (which is acknowledged in AppA-S4.1), ground water infiltration alone cannot dewater the material quickly enough to allow for an efficient and safe dredging operation. The volume of material is too high and the CDF is too low. Therefore, the CDF will require an additional means of dewatering, which would need to be via a submerged pipeline or open channel outlet to return tailwater back to Lady Bay.

***E. Can you please give precise Lat & Long WGS 84 for the proposed dredge area?***

Comment provided from Water Technology; "As provided by WCC at the project outset:

142.480103, -38.401448

142.478286, -38.400962

142.477337, -38.401234

142.477223, -38.402290"

- F. Have WT spoken to or contacted AW Maritime re their dredging requirements at the toe of the existing boat ramp?*

Comment provided from Water Technology; "We have not liaised directly with AW Maritime about this project. We are comfortable to discuss the project with them, if desired.

We note that the porous boat ramp is well known to Water Technology, as we originally developed this concept for Council."

- G. Has WT used the latest bathymetric survey and overlaid the precise area it proposes to dump the sand in option 4?*

Comment provided from Water Technology; "The latest hydrographic survey carried out by a registered surveyor of Lady Bay received by WT is dated 10-Oct-2019.

WT have used this survey and other historical surveys to inform the estimate of longshore transport infilling the dredged pocket.

The beach bathymetry at the placement ground will need to be updated prior to prepare placement plan, this would occur only a few weeks before dredging starts to ensure that the current position of sandbars are taken into account in the placement plan. This is a standard process for nearshore sand placement."

- H. In your Appendix A, 4.4 "The results of the sediment analysis indicated...), when was this analysis completed and where was the material sourced from? Sorry can't quote page numbers because there aren't any!*

Comment provided from Water Technology; "Details of the sediment sampling are provided in AppA-S2.4.2.

This provides the date and location of sediment sampling, and the physical and geochemical testing carried out at a NATA certified laboratory, for each sample. "

- I. "4.7 of your AppA, states the following "... where sand would migrate towards the shore due to sediment imbalance in the profile, which mimics the upper beach recovery process following major storms."*  
*What exactly are you referring to here, because as it reads it is factually incorrect, major storms cause the depletion of sand from the dunes and just sucks it back into the bay – an observed fact!!! That's why the dunes are in such a state, due to wave action eating away at the base and levelling the sand out into the bay."*

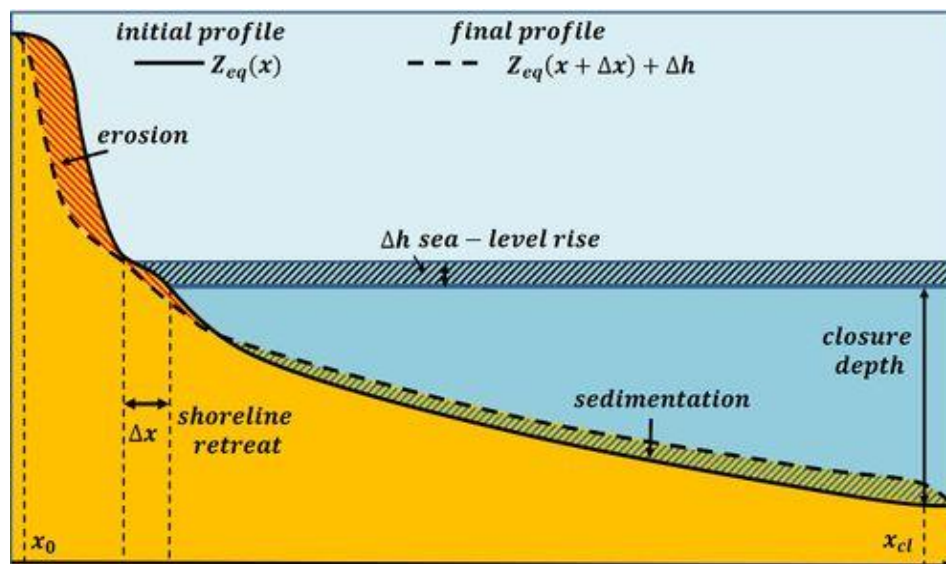
Comment provided from Water Technology; "We agree, this sentence could be improved to avoid such misinterpretation.

As pointed out, during storm events energetic waves and high tides pull sand off the dry beach. This sand is deposited on sandbars, in the nearshore zone. However,

following the storm, the dry beach recovers as the offshore sandbars move back towards land and feed the lower beach terrace with sand. Once sand is pushed onto the terrace beach, the dry beach, primary dune and secondary dunes grow. This is a natural process.

Nearshore placement of sand, such as envisaged in option 4, ""boost"" this natural process by surcharging the bar with new sand. This new sand will move towards the shore, increasing the sand available for the dry beach over a period of weeks to months. The proposed placement works with nature and washes the sand up the beach.

While the foreshore dunes at Lady Bay have experienced severe erosion over the last 10 years (also acknowledged throughout the report), this is due to a range of reasons, behind the mechanism involved in dredge pocket infill. During years-long periods, when storm clusters occur, the rate of storm erosion can outpace the natural recovery rate, and the beach can spend years in a more eroded state. It is also likely that the impact of sea level rise is realigning the beach, essentially pushing the dunes and the nearshore seabed landwards and upwards - see image below as an indicative guide to the impact of sea level rise on open coast beaches. "



- J. When considering option 4, are you underestimating the longshore drift effect which moves sand from the east to the SW & S into the inner harbour area & dredge pocket? Can you substantiate the "over time" you refer to please?

Comment provided from Water Technology; "We have assessed the rate of dredge pocket infill using hydrographic surveys prepared by a certified hydrographic surveyor.

There is no ambiguity or underestimating in the volume of combined longshore sand transport and of sand bypassing the breakwater which is ingressing into the harbour. Our report states that an around 2,500-4,000 m<sup>3</sup> of clean sand accumulates within the Port each year. The range is weather dependant and will vary from year-to-year. If no dredging occurs, then the deposition rate tends to reduce after several years, as the dredged pocket is becoming full.

Post dredge survey showed the following rates of deposition in the two years after the recent dredging campaigns:

>2009-2011: 4,500m<sup>3</sup> of infill in dredge pocket

>2012-2014: 4,000m<sup>3</sup> of infill in dredge pocket"

**WCC Public Q**

*Has the Water Tech document Appendix A- Dredging Options Assessment- Technical Report been peer reviewed?*

*This is due to some inaccuracies which have been highlighted, and lead to a flawed document being presented to WCC.*

Comment noted. Addressed above.

If you have any questions please contact me via telephone 5559 4800 or Emails: [thall@warrnambool.vic.gov.au](mailto:thall@warrnambool.vic.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,



Thomas Hall

**Projects Engineer (Project Manager)**