



**9.2 SWIMMING TRAIL FEASIBILITY - RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF MOTION**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER: ALLISON KENWOOD, GENERAL MANAGER, COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION**

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**1. PURPOSE**

1.1 To inform Councillors of the findings from a preliminary investigation into the feasibility of creating a 'Port Phillip Swimming Trail'.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2.1 A [notice of motion](#) was received from Councillor Marcus Pearl on 4 April 2023.

2.2 The resolution requested the CEO (or delegate) to conduct preliminary investigations into the feasibility of creating a Port Phillip Swimming Trail that considered need, safety, partnerships with other agencies, wayfinding approaches, consultation and indicative costs.

2.3 The implementation of a formalised Port Phillip Swimming Trail was investigated with various stakeholders, including Parks Victoria, Safety Transport Victoria, Victoria Police, Elwood Life Saving Club, open water swimming groups and participants. All stakeholders supported swimming in the bay as a form of recreation and physical activity.

2.4 The municipal boundary for Council is the high-water mark and therefore any in-water activity would be outside of Council's municipal boundary. Parks Victoria and Safe Transport Victoria manage and regulated bay activity and any form of swimming trail would need to be permitted by these State agencies.

2.5 Special navigation markers are installed and maintained by Parks Victoria for vessel navigation and waterway regulation (similar to road regulatory signs), any changes could interfere with this function and impact on compliance by waterway users.

2.6 The risk and implications of encouraging swimming next to navigational markers (situated 200m from the foreshore in deep water) raise safety concerns from State Agencies and community groups, as the markers are on the edge of the boating area with unlimited speeds; and they discourage swimming for all (regardless of competency).

2.7 Stakeholders said that any potential open water swimming project needed to be supported with education to improve the safety of participants.

2.8 Parks Victoria have indicated that this is not a project they would support or partner with Council on.

2.9 The following options have been considered for a swimming trail:

- **Option 1** – Using existing navigational markers. (\$300,000 plus Project Management FTE costs).



- **Option 2** – Installing new markers in swimming only zone. (\$700,000 plus Project Management FTE costs).
  - **Option 3** – Supporting current open water swimming activities (\$40,000 plus Project Management FTE costs).
  - **Option 4** – No Change.
- 2.10 Options 1, 2 and 3 attract additional ongoing costs for resourcing, maintenance and insurance.
- 2.11 It is recommended to progress with **Option 3** - support current open water swimming activities.
- 2.12 This option builds on the current established groups who have experienced and engaged participants. These groups recognise and promote the value of open water swimming and offer a variety of options for members.
- 2.13 Option 3 doesn't create new assets outside the council boundary which would have additional and ongoing requirements.
- 2.14 This option provides an opportunity to provide additional support for 12 months to these groups and people in the community who wish to experience open water swimming. After 12 months further funding could possibly be accessed through Council's annual grants program.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 3.1 Recognises the benefits of open water swimming; and
- 3.2 Provides funding of \$52,000 for a 12 month program to support the growth of open water swimming through a combination of events, education, promotion and direct financial support to established clubs to support increased participation.

### 4. KEY POINTS/ISSUES

#### BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A [notice of motion](#) (NOM) was received from Cr Marcus Pearl on 4 April 2023.
- 4.2 The NOM was seeking a preliminary investigation to explore the feasibility of utilising existing special navigation markers to create a formalised swimming trail. The idea sought small signs on the special navigation makers giving each a name, having a quote for motivation and a distance measure to the next marker.
- 4.3 The special navigation markers are already informally used in this way and the investigation was to look at whether formalising a swimming trail might help to encourage further use by open water swimmers and support for physical activity in our City.
- 4.4 It was resolved that Council:  
*Requests that the CEO (or delegate) conducts a preliminary investigation into the feasibility of creating a 'Port Phillip Swimming Trail' and provides a report back to Council on the outcomes of this investigation. The investigation should consider amongst other things: -*



1. *The partnership and approvals that may be required from Parks Victoria, Maritime Safety Victoria and DELWP, who are the governing authorities for the Bay waters and coastline.*
2. *How the existing yellow boating zone markers along the coastline could be used as markers for the swimming trail.*
3. *What wayfinding approaches could be considered including naming each marker, affixing a motivational quote and specifying the various distances along the trail.*
4. *What consultation will be required to implement such an initiative.*
5. *Any safety implications of such an initiative.*
6. *Indicative costs of such an initiative on Parks Victoria assets*

#### **SWIMMING IN PORT PHILLIP BAY**

- 4.5 Port Phillip Bay is a popular destination for open water swimming. There are currently no formalised designated swimming trails along the coastline.
- 4.6 The section of the Bay adjoining the City of Port Phillip extends 11km from Port Melbourne to Elwood. As the closest foreshore area to the CBD our beaches are a well used by residents and visitors year-round, for open water swimming and other recreational pursuits, and provides approximately 3.5km of 'swimming only' zones.
- 4.7 The waterway and foreshore infrastructure such as piers, commercial port infrastructure (Station Pier) and boat ramp access points, mean that there is no way to swim the length of the municipality without entering boating zones.
- 4.8 A high number of formal and informal swimming groups utilise the Bay.
- 4.9 Open water swimming has many benefits including fitness or training for an event, social connection, supporting mental or physical health or just for the love of it.
- 4.10 Even during the cold winter months, groups of up to 30 will enter the Bay for a swim or just to submerge and feel reenergised.
- 4.11 Some swimming groups utilise the existing special navigation markers to guide their activities. These markers are located 200m from the shoreline. The distance out and back to the markers is the equivalent of eight laps of a swimming pool, attracting more competent swimmers.
- 4.12 Some open water swimmers have created their own swim routes by mapping their paths using fitness watches, measuring distances between foreshore landmarks, or simply enjoying the challenge to swim out to a special navigation marker and back.
- 4.13 Port Melbourne provides one of the best swimming locations in the Bay. Most open water swimming occurs here, or in other swimming zones marked near our five Life Saving Clubs.
- 4.14 Along with swimming there are a number of other activities occurring within the swimming only zones, including water play, recreational swimming, tourism, paddle boarding, kayaking and major events.
- 4.15 Adjacent to swimming zones our community sailing, yachting and angling clubs provide water activities. Along with our commercial recreation providers of triathlons, kite boarding and competitive sporting events.
- 4.16 The foreshore is also a very popular tourist destination known for the promenade, open space, bike trail, cafés and restaurants.



- 4.17 Statistics show that St Kilda alone attracts 3 million visitors to the foreshore each year. Up to 500 cyclists and 3000 pedestrians in one hour can pass along the Promenade near of St Kilda Pier during summer months.
- 4.18 There are currently no published statistics on the numbers of people open water swimming.

#### **FORESHORE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATIONS**

- 4.19 The bay provides for a high number of uses and attracts a large number of visitors year-round. To manage this the bay is regulated to ensure safety for all users.

#### **Boundaries and Responsibilities**

- 4.20 Council's municipal boundary ends at the high tide line. Council's provides permits for use of the foreshore for activities that must be undertaken in adherence with both Local and State Government legislation.
- 4.21 Council's insurance is limited to the land and assets that Council manages and/or owns. It does not cover other agencies Crown land or assets.
- 4.22 Parks Victoria are the waterway manager and Local Port Manager for the Bay. Parks Victoria provides permits to allow infrastructure, works and activities occurring on the Bay.
- 4.23 Ports Victoria manage the shipping lanes and commercial ports such as Station Pier.
- 4.24 Safe Transport Victoria (ST Vic) plays a central role in regulating safe maritime activities, providing regulatory approval of Parks Victoria's waterway activities.
- 4.25 Victoria Police are the marine authority to enforce laws under the Maritime Safety Act.
- 4.26 Any infrastructure or signage installed by Council in the Bay or on the foreshore would require licence agreements with the State.

#### **Swimming and Boating Zones**

- 4.27 To manage all users of the Bay, the Victorian Government has established dedicated zones for 'swimming only' or 'shared boating and swimming' zones that include Personal Water Craft (PWC) with a 5 knot speed restriction subject to the behaviour of the vessel operator. The zones are marked by special navigation markers located on the water (yellow top markers) and signage on the shore and hold a similar function to road regulatory signs.
- 4.28 The Bay between Port Melbourne and Elwood has various zones and conflict points including piers, PWC zones and shared wind sport areas, commercial port infrastructure (Station Pier) and boat ramp access points. To minimise the impact of these conflict points, specifically to separate high powered vessels from swimmers, various zones have been established: 'swimming only/no boating', 'shared boating and swimming' zones and 'shared wind sport' zones.
- 4.29 Consultation with the Bay stakeholders has reconfirmed the significant conflict points within shared boating and swimming zones, particularly as they create interactions between PWCs and swimmers.
- 4.30 State enforcement and prosecuting is an existing challenge due to difficulties establishing the PWC location in relation to the special navigation markers.

- 4.31 The swimming only/no boating zones are typically located in front of Life Saving Clubs. Lifesaving club rescue vessels are exempt.
- 4.32 Parks Victoria's Swimming and Boating Zone Maps are shown in Image 1 below, available on our website.
- [Swimming & Boating Zones - Port Melbourne to St Kilda](#)
  - [Swimming & Boating Zones - Elwood to Seaford](#)

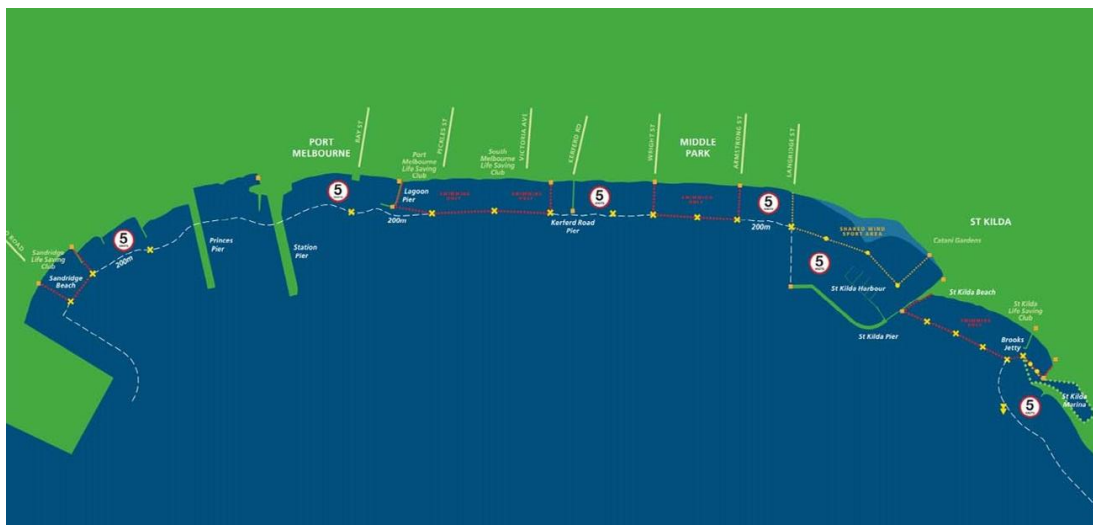


Image 1: Swimming & Boating Zones Port Melbourne to St Kilda

#### Swimming Zones

- 4.33 Swimming Only (No boating zones) occur in only five locations around the Bay. These zones extend 200m from the foreshore and comprise a length of approximately 3.5km of the 11km length of Bay extending through CoPP. These locations are:
- In front of Sandridge, Port Melbourne, South Melbourne and Elwood Life Saving Clubs
  - On Middle Park Beach between Wright and Armstrong Streets
  - For the entire length of St Kilda Beach from St Kilda Pier to Marina Reserve
- 4.34 Open water swimming is typically undertaken in an 'out and back' pattern. Engagement with swimmers indicated that most longer distance swimmers would swim 500m – 1.5km. Based on this, if a formal swimming trail were to be considered, the swimming only zones located in South Melbourne and St Kilda provide the best options based on risk and available distance in excess of 500m.
- 4.35 There have been ongoing issues with PWC (e.g. jetski's) illegally accessing swimming only/no boating zones or excessive speed within the 5 knot shared zones or 50m of swimmers and other vessels. This has resulted in ongoing complaints and the death of a swimmer in 2012 from a jet ski entering the swimming zone.
- 4.36 Enforcing compliance and prosecuting is an existing challenge due to difficulties establishing PWC location in relation to the special navigation markers.
- 4.37 A number of factors make it difficult for PWC operators to see or hear swimmers: the salt spray and engine noise amongst the waves; swimmers low in the water and



wearing black wetsuits; and PWC activities being undertaken at higher speeds than swimming.

### **Special Navigation Markers**

- 4.38 Special navigation markers are currently installed at points 200m from the tide line to manage vessels.
- 4.39 They are installed and maintained by Parks Victoria for vessel navigation and waterway regulation (similar to road regulatory signs).

### **Maintenance**

- 4.40 If a formal swimming trail was introduced and included permanent or temporary infrastructure, Council would be responsible for the management and costs associated with installation and maintenance.
- 4.41 Council do not currently have responsibility for maritime assets in the Bay and therefore do not have contractors or resources (e.g. boats) to undertake this type of maintenance work.
- 4.42 Before progressing with trial a risk assessments would need to be undertaken and insurance covered.
- 4.43 Maintenance costs would also need to consider, plus damage responses such as those caused by adverse weather conditions including storm surges.

### **ENGAGEMENT**

- 4.44 To inform this feasibility investigation, engagement was undertaken with a number of priority stakeholders who would be involved in the approvals, implementation, management and resultant benefits of the swimming trail.

### **State Agencies**

- 4.45 As State Agencies are responsible for the Bay, Parks Victoria, Safety Transport Victoria and Victoria Police were consulted to prepare this report.
- 4.46 State Agencies are concerned there is a safety risk if special navigation markers are used to identify a swimming trail. The concern is that by encouraging swimming along the boating boundary and across shared zones this would falsely imply the activity is being undertaken in a safe/ protected location.
- 4.47 State Agencies have advised that any formalised swimming trails or other activities should be away from waters occupied by vessels and PWCs (including shared zones) to appropriately separate swimmers and vessels travelling at high speeds.
- 4.48 Parks Victoria and Safe Transport Victoria will not permit the altering of the markers from their intended use by including additional signage, wayfinding, distance markings or motivational quotes. Reference to a swimming trail may only be considered below the yellow marking in the tide line. This section is typically below the waterline during high-tide or wave action.

### **Open Water Swimmers**

- 4.49 A number of community groups utilise the Bay for open water swimming and related activities within the City of Port Phillip. This includes formalised groups such as the Port Melbourne Icebergs, who describe themselves as a plunge group, informal swimming groups and provider of commercial events.





- 4.50 Members of Port Melbourne Icebergs have the option of meeting and swimming every day of the week, all year round.
- 4.51 They are based near to Port Melbourne Life Saving Club. It is estimated that most members of the group swim 500m in winter and 1km or more during summer.
- 4.52 This group and individuals have their own swimming routes mapped, using a combination of key landmarks (piers) and special navigation markers to track distance and location. Some swim between the navigational markers, however others choose to swim closer to the beach where they feel safer. Many use smartwatches to keep track of their swims.
- 4.53 The open water swimmers indicated that a swimming trail may be helpful but is not a necessity for their participation. As when swimming:
- as an individual they will swim out and back parallel to the beach;
  - with a group or as part of an organised event, groups would set out temporary markers (if required).
- 4.54 They identified that motivational sayings on markers would not influence their choice to swim or provide any further encouragement, stating they would be unlikely to even see them.

#### **Volunteer Life Saving Club Representative**

- 4.55 Engagement with Elwood Life Saving Club indicated they had previously advocated to Council for swimming markers to be installed within swimming only zones. This was in response to the boating navigation markers being moved from 100m from the foreshore to 200m.
- 4.56 The club reported they had undertaken many rescues of swimmers utilising the navigation markers as a turning point due to the following:
- swimming to the markers creates a conflict with PWCs; and
  - the markers provided a target that often-encouraged people to swim 200m from the beach, regardless of their swimming ability. There is nowhere to stop or rest and therefore should only be considered by experienced and competent open water swimmers with appropriate safety equipment and consideration of the ongoing risks.
- 4.57 They indicated that competent open water swimmers often swam with lighting or attachments (e.g. floatation devices) to make themselves more visible to other users of the water which should be encouraged.
- 4.58 It was recommended that, if a swimming trail was established, further water safety education would be required and Council should liaise with Triathlon Victoria and Life Saving Victoria around water safety messaging.

#### **OPTIONS**

- 4.59 The following options have been identified and addressed within the feasibility for a Port Phillip Swimming Trail.
- Option 1 – Use Existing Navigational Markers.
  - Option 2 – Install New Markers in Swimming Only Zone
  - Option 3 – Support Current Open Water Swimming Activities
  - Option 4 – No Change.



### **Option 1: Use Existing Navigational Markers.**

#### **Project**

- 4.60 This option would see formalisation of a swimming trail utilising the existing special navigation markers. This would be achieved by providing some allowable unique identifiers on the special navigation markers to create a swimming trail (e.g. ST-01 to denote Swimming Trail Marker 1).
- 4.61 A communications plan could be developed to promote the project via Council's website could be updated to include details and reference the distances between each marker; similar to the [Walking Trails and Groups](#) currently provided.

#### **Funding**

- 4.62 Establishment costs are estimated at \$300k. Detailed costings would need to be investigated if the project was to progress.
- 4.63 There is no current Council resource to manage this project, a further \$50k (1FTE x 2days x 12months) would be required to cover project management costs.
- 4.64 Funding would also be required for ongoing maintenance costs or damage-tidal and storm impacts, vandalism, etc.

#### **Considerations**

- 4.65 Visibility of signage would be variable due to water movement and aquatic growth.
- 4.66 Potential for increased incidents between swimmers and PWC's by directing swimmers to the boundary with high speed vessels.
- 4.67 Formalising a swimming trail on the boundary and across shared boating zones could imply that the activity is safe.
- 4.68 Risk assessments and adequacy of mitigations would need to be considered prior to commencing.
- 4.69 Implications to insurance coverage would need to be considered as Council would take on direct liability for ongoing incidents.
- 4.70 Approval from Parks Victoria and Safe Transport Victoria would be required to progress. Initial consultation with both agencies indicated this swimming trail of this type would not be encouraged or supported.
- 4.71 Elwood Life Saving Club had been seeking options to discourage use of the special navigation markers as swimming markers.
- 4.72 This option would only support the needs of the confident swimmers that are likely to already be utilising the landmarks, special navigation markers and smart watches as an informal swimming trail.
- 4.73 Engagement with open water swimmers indicated any swimming trail would need to be located closer to the foreshore.

#### **Assessment**

- 4.74 While this option has been assessed it is unlikely to be possible given approval from Parks Victoria and Safe Transport Victoria would be required. Both agencies indicated a swimming trail of this type would not be encouraged or supported.

### **Option 2: Install New Markers in Swimming Only Zone**



### Project

- 4.75 Install new permanent markers closer to the beach near the Life Saving Clubs at either Port Melbourne, South Melbourne or St Kilda beach.
- 4.76 The proposed swimming trail would be located approximately 100m from the beach, and could stretch for 300 to 900m within the designated swimming only zones. The exact location and distance of the swimming trail would be defined in future community engagement.
- 4.77 The below image depicts the installation of a 900m swimming trail at South Melbourne beach. This option would require installation of minimum 40 piling markers 50m apart with signage and wayfinding at South Melbourne and St Kilda.



Image 2: Proposed locations for markers depicting a 900m swimming trail in the swimming zone at South Melbourne beach.

### Funding

- 4.78 A minimum cost of \$700,000 would be required for project establishment, including \$15,000 per marker and foreshore signage (design, mapping, planning approvals, supply and installation).
- 4.79 There is no current Council resource to manage this project, a further \$50k (1FTE x 2days x 12months) would be required to cover project management costs.
- 4.80 Additionally, Council would need to provide funding for ongoing maintenance costs to address cleaning, installation and removal, aquatic growth, tidal and storm impacts, vandalism, etc. These whole asset costs would be need to be fully absorbed by Council and therefore would result in higher than the maintenance costs of Option 1.

### Considerations

- 4.81 Many open water swimming groups situated throughout Port Phillip Bay utilise landmarks, piers and special navigation markers as informal swimming markers. Alternatively, they position temporary buoys during their times of operation, this is especially so during formal events such as triathlons. Some swimmers also attach buoys to their bodies to provide greater visibility to other users of the waterways.



4.82 The installation of new swimming markers would be safer than the navigational markers due to:

- retention of swimmers in swimming only zones and discouraging use of the special navigation markers (and the conflict points they create between swimmers and PWC's);
- more inclusive of all swimmers as the proposed location would be closer to the foreshore and could be designed to support less competent swimmers;

4.83 Implications associated with the installation of new swimming markers include:

- Insurance coverage would need to be considered as Council would assume direct liability for any incidents.
- Existing foreshore landmarks provided a pseudo swimming trail for open water swimmers and supports the individual swimmer. The limitations associated with the installation of a swimming trail may not meet the intended need for users;
- Opportunity for PWC operators to misinterpret these markers and enter the swimming only zone due to the lack of competency base licencing;
- Increased and ongoing resource and maintenance cost to provide this service, particularly due to damage from storms and vandalism.
- Public concern with number of markers reducing the amenity each area due to the interruption of Bay view lines with the increased number of markers which are seen to be larger due to being 100m closer to the shoreline.
- Installation of new swimming markers requires approval from the responsible State Agencies.
- Parks Victoria have indicated that they have no plans for this type of project, if it was to progress it would be at Council's expense.
- If approved by the State authorities, Council would be liable for all installation, maintenance, replacements and liability claim costs for the works outside the municipality.

### **Assessment**

While this option has been assessed it is unlikely to be possible given approval from Parks Victoria and Safe Transport Victoria would be required. Both agencies indicated a swimming trail of this type would not be encouraged or supported.

### **Option 3: Support Current Open Water Swimming Activities**

#### **Project**

4.84 There are a number of formal and informal open water swimming groups operating within Port Phillip. This project would look at ways to support and promote these existing operations to further increase participation.

4.85 Support could be through:

- Program funding for additional equipment or club events
- Increased promotion to attract new members via social media and engagement with Life Saving Clubs and other key clubs.



- Engage with Life Saving Victoria and Triathlon Victoria to provide education programs to promote safe swimming around the bay, particularly in/near boating zones
- Funding for lessons or programs to enhance swimming abilities.

4.86 This project would make no changes to existing special navigational markers nor require the installation of new markers.

### **Funding**

4.87 Project funding of \$40,000 to develop the project. Ongoing funding could be sought by clubs through Council's [Community Grants Program](#)

4.88 There is no current Council resource to manage this project, a further \$12,000 (1FTE x 1days x 6months) would be required to cover project establishment costs, totalling \$52,000.

### **Considerations**

4.89 Providing support to grow current programs rather than creation of something new.

4.90 Opportunities to partner with current groups, triathlon clubs and other experienced professionals to add value to current activities.

4.91 Promotion could also be linked with support for local traders.

4.92 No additional maritime infrastructure to be introduced to the Bay.

4.93 No ongoing maritime asset maintenance responsibilities.

### **Assessment**

This option is the recommended option given it supports and promotes existing operations to further increase participation in open water swimming. Approval from Parks Victoria and Safe Transport Victoria would not be required.

### **Option 4: No change**

4.94 No change to current process.

4.95 Open water swimming groups could seek financial support via Council's Community Grants program. Open water swimming groups could access this to enhance their operations, programs or equipment - [Community Grants Program](#)

### **RECOMMENDATION**

4.96 It is recommended to progress with Option 3 - Support Current Open Water Swimming Activities.

4.97 This option builds on the current established groups who have experienced and engaged members. These groups recognise and promote the value of open water swimming and offer a variety of options for members.

4.98 Option 3 doesn't create new assets outside the council boundary which would have additional and ongoing requirements.

4.99 This option provides an opportunity to spend 12 months to provide additional support to groups and people in the community who wish to experience open water swimming. After the 12 months further funding could be accessed through Council's annual grants program.



## 5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The following groups were engaged to develop this report: Parks Victoria, Safety Transport Victoria, Victoria Police, Elwood Life Saving Club, Port Melbourne Iceberg and individual open water swimmers.
- 5.2 The detail of this engagement is outlined in the above sections.
- 5.3 The following Council teams were involved in developing the report – Foreshore Management, Sport and Recreation and Risk.
- 5.4 If the swimming trail via options 1 or 2 was to progress, State Coastal Act consent would require consultation with Parks Victoria, Transport Safety Victoria and Victoria Police. Feedback from the wider community would also be required.

## 6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 To progress a swimming trail, Council will be required to seek consent under the State Coastal Act, from Parks Victoria as the waterway manager and Transport Safety Victoria as the regulator.
- 6.2 The formalising of a Port Phillip Swimming Trail would lead to Council assuming all legal and risk implications.
- 6.3 Council is a formal Committee of Management (CoM) for the foreshore Crown land and is covered by the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA), not our own. The VMIA is the insurance provider to all State Government Authorities. Gaining insurance for the activity on the States waters may be difficult due to the potential safety risks.
- 6.4 The municipal boundary for Council is the high water mark and therefore the activity would be outside of our municipal boundary. Early advice indicates this may lead to implications with insurance coverage.
- 6.5 As outlined in the report there is a safety risk through encouraging/formalising swimming near special navigational markers due to distance and proximity to boating lanes, including increased potential for interactions between swimmers and high powered PWC's travelling at speed.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The implementation of a Port Phillip Swimming Trail is not currently funded within the 2023/24 financial year.
- 7.2 All options will take 3-6months to begin, due to resourcing constraints. Therefore, the financial commitment will span over a few financial years.
- 7.3 Additional resources would need to be allocated to deliver the project, including project management and further feasibility/engagement. This amount would be dependent on the chosen option currently estimated at \$12,000 to \$50,000.
- 7.4 The project costs vary as follows:
  - Option 1: \$300,000
  - Option 2: \$700,000
  - Option 3: \$40,000
  - Option 4: \$0



7.5 Budgeting of ongoing maintenance costs and potentially increased insurance premiums would also be required.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

8.1 The coastal environment is likely to impact any hardwood markers placed in the water. They will be subject to storm events, tidal movement, any pollutants in the bay and general coastal conditions (seaweed, salt water, marine growth). There are therefore likely to require a high level of cleaning, general maintenance and repair.

8.2 No known impacts on the environment from this project.

**9. COMMUNITY IMPACT**

9.1 A successful swimming trail could encourage increased open water swimming, providing health and wellbeing benefits as outlined in the Sport and Recreation Strategy.

9.2 Increased visitors to the area to engage with open water swimming could provide some level of economic benefit to nearby traders.

**10. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY**

10.1 **Liveable Port Phillip:** A City that is a great place to live, where our community has access to high quality public spaces, development and growth are well-managed, and it is safer and easy to connect and travel within

**11. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

11.1 TIMELINE

11.1.1 February 2024 – project commenced. If approved the project would begin once resourced, this would either require putting another project on hold or employing additional staff.

11.1.2 February – April 2024 – engagement with stakeholders

11.2 COMMUNICATION

11.2.1 Engagement with the community would commence in February 2024.

**12. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

12.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any material or general interest in the matter.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil