



Minutes

Special Meeting of Electors

Monday, 14 November 2022, 6pm



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1. Official opening, welcome and acknowledgement

The Mayor, Hannah Fitzhardinge declared the meeting open at 6.01pm and welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

1.1 Attendance

Ms Hannah Fitzhardinge	Mayor
Mr Glen Dougall	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Matt Hammond	Director City Business
Ms Michelle Brennand	Director Community Development
Mr Russell Kingdom	Director Planning, Place and Urban Development
Mr Graham Tattersall	Director Infrastructure
Ms Melody Foster	A/Manager Governance
Ms Donna Ross	Corporate Administration Officer
Ms Anne-Marie Bartlett	Meeting Support Officer

There were approximately 104 electors in attendance and 16 members of the public observing only.

2. Presentations

1. The Director of Planning, Place and Urban Development, Russell Kingdom provided a short presentation on the council decision from the Ordinary Meeting of Council held Wednesday, 26 October 2022.
2. The petition initiator, Mr Ian Ker, provided a short presentation on the meeting request.

3. Acceptance of Motions

The following motion was provided as part of the request for the special meeting of electors.

Motion

Support:

1. Reversion to the proposal that resulted from intensive community engagement and was confirmed by the Minister for Transport in August 2021; and
2. Retaining substantial parts of the existing traffic bridge in a functional, rather than purely symbolic, form.

Following the decision of Council on Wednesday, 26 October 2022, the following proposed motion was provided in writing by Mr Ian Ker, to replace the motion above.



1. Motion submitted by Ian Ker

Moved: Ian Ker

Seconded: Gina Blakemore

1) That this Special Meeting of the Electors of the City of Fremantle:

- a) Welcomes the resolution of the City of Fremantle Council, at its meeting on 26th October 2022:
 - i) to call for substantial additional information on a range of options, including the 'reference design' reached at the previous community consultation in July 2021, and a comparative analysis of a range of workable options,**
 - ii) that the community be an integral part of this analysis, including establishing the criteria, and**
 - iii) that options be 'presented in full to the community for engagement, discussion and feedback'.****
- b) Registers its anger and deep concern at the lack of consistency and sustained community involvement in development of the Swan River Crossings project leading to the Swan River Crossings proposal announced by the WA Minister for Transport on 21st August 2022.**
- c) Demands that the wider Fremantle community be actively informed and engaged as an integral part of the Swan River Crossings project through to completion.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY

2. Motion submitted by Ian Ker

Moved: Ian Ker

Seconded: Lisa Barnes

2) That this Special Meeting of the Electors of the City of Fremantle:

- a) Acknowledges the Fremantle Council's inclusion of the old traffic bridge as cultural heritage "to be fully assessed, valued and managed in accordance with a comprehensive, professionally prepared heritage assessment report, interpretation strategy and implementation plan";**
- b) Requests that the community be an integral part of the development of that plan; and**



- c) **Requests that no decisions or actions be taken that would restrict the available options for the old traffic bridge (or any of the other “items of significant heritage value” (see note below)) until that assessment report has been completed and considered by Council and the community.**

NOTE: “Items of significant cultural heritage value” include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- i) Whadjuk significance of the place, including the Swan River and Cantonment Hill**
- ii) The old traffic bridge**
- iii) The limestone escarpment and foreshore**
- iv) The former Capstan**
- v) Remnants and artefacts of previous river crossings**
- vi) The ‘containbow’ art installation**
- vii) The award-winning ‘Gathering Place’ location**

AMENDMENT 1

Moved: John Dowson

Seconded: Neil Smithson

Amend note (i) to read as follows:

- i) Whadjuk significance of the place, including the Swan River and Cantonment Hill, and early interactions between Aboriginal people and Captain Stirling and Captain Fremantle in this area in 1827 and 1829.**

LOST

AMENDMENT 2

Moved: John Dowson

Seconded: Neil Smithson

Add a new note (viii), to read as follows:

- viii) Extensive social heritage from community use of the area below the escarpment for recreation such as yachting, rowing, and picnics for almost 150 years.**

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY



AMENDMENT 3

Moved: John Dowson

Seconded: Neil Smithson

Add a new note (ix), to read as follows:

- ix) Early interactions between Aboriginal people and Captain Stirling and Captain Fremantle in this area in 1827 and 1829.

LOST

AMENDMENT 4

Moved: John Kirkness

Seconded: Ron Kawalilak

- ix) Early interactions between Aboriginal people and early European settlers from 1827.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE

2. Motion submitted by Ian Ker (as amended)

Moved: Ian Ker

Seconded: Lisa Barnes

2) That this Special Meeting of the Electors of the City of Fremantle:

- a) Acknowledges the Fremantle Council's inclusion of the old traffic bridge as cultural heritage "to be fully assessed, valued and managed in accordance with a comprehensive, professionally prepared heritage assessment report, interpretation strategy and implementation plan";
- b) Requests that the community be an integral part of the development of that plan; and
- c) Requests that no decisions or actions be taken that would restrict the available options for the old traffic bridge (or any of the other "items of significant heritage value" (see note below)) until that assessment report has been completed and considered by Council and the community.

NOTE: "Items of significant cultural heritage value" include, but are not necessarily limited to:



- i) Whadjuk significance of the place, including the Swan River and Cantonment Hill
- ii) The old traffic bridge
- iii) The limestone escarpment and foreshore
- iv) The former Capstan
- v) Remnants and artefacts of previous river crossings
- vi) The 'containbow' art installation
- vii) The award-winning 'Gathering Place' location
- viii) *Extensive social heritage from community use of the area below the escarpment for recreation such as yachting, rowing, and picnics for almost 150 years.*
- ix) *Early interactions between Aboriginal people and early European settlers from 1827.*

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT

3. Motion submitted by Isadora Noble

Moved: Isadora Noble

Seconded: Ian Ker

- 3) That the Council engage with the representatives of the Save the Old Fremantle Bridge Alliance to hear expert opinion about the benefits of retaining the bridge, with a view to support the retention of the entire existing bridge.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE

4. Motion submitted by Peter Keleman

Moved: Peter Keleman

Seconded: Walter Yates

That this meeting of Electors of the City of Fremantle are opposed to Option 3 (Canning Hwy diversion) as part of the proposed Swan River Crossings Project, as proposed in August 2022 as;

1. It is inconsistent with the previously supported option of August 2021;
2. It diminishes the connectivity of the surrounding areas and suburbs; and
3. There is loss of heritage elements including existing vegetation, escarpment, containbow and ephemeral gathering place artwork and award winning art installation.

CARRIED WITHOUT DISSENT



5. Motion submitted by John Dowson

Moved: John Dowson

Seconded: Marija Vujcic

That the meeting condemns the quality of previous main roads projects such as the recent High St/Stirling Hwy intersection and the way main roads has run the process so far for the river crossing proposals and seeks the minister of transport Rita Saffioti to insist that concerns detailed in the motion 1 and 2, be addressed before the project proceeds.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE

4. Public question time

A number of electors made statements in relation to the Swan River Crossings project.

Natalie Hug spoke in relation to the Swan River Crossings project and asked the following question:

Are there any documents or drawings where you can see more details, in terms of where the road is going (at the southern end of the bridge)?

Mayor, Hannah Fitzhardinge provided the following response:

The last motion passed by Council included a request that outlines the information that we want to provide or share with the community around the matters that you have raised.

The following questions were submitted in writing by Electors and taken on notice

Questions submitted by Walter Yates:

1. How will access to the area between Stirling Bridge/Highway and Queen Victoria Street be managed to limit inconveniences to residents and businesses, especially when one or more roads has to be closed for emergency reasons?
2. How will 5 (*v. Remnants and artefacts of previous river crossings*) be addressed?

Questions submitted by Isadora Noble:

1. We want to know why the Mayor and Council continues to ignore the wishes of these people who want to retain the bridge?
2. And why the Council and Mayor do not engage with the Alliance and its engineering, heritage, planning and legal experts?



Question submitted by Angela Bond:

What is the plan for Burt Street to ensure this residential street does not become a thoroughfare?

Questions submitted by Martin Gelgyn:

After so little consultation with close neighbourhood residents, why is there no left turn from the proposed bridge? Also, why design such a lazy idea, why not a suspension bridge as in Millan?

5. Closure

The Mayor, Hannah Fitzhardinge advised that the motions carried at the Special Meeting of Electors and responses to the questions taken on notice, will be presented to the Ordinary Meeting of Council on Wednesday, 14 December 2023.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.