



Minutes

Annual General Meeting of Electors

Tuesday 6 June 2023 6pm



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1. Official opening, welcome and acknowledgment

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6:04pm and welcomed electors to the meeting.

The Presiding Member informed electors that the meeting was being recorded but not livestreamed, for administrative records.

2. Attendance

Ms Hannah Fitzhardinge	Mayor/Presiding Member
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 Alida Ferreira	Manager Financial Services
Mr Paul Dunlop	Manager Communications and Events
Ms Gabrielle Woulfe	Meeting Support Officer

There were approximately 27 electors present at the meeting and no members of the press.

3. Presentation of the Annual Report

Moved: Jenny Archibald

Seconded: Bryn Jones

That the City of Fremantle Annual Report 2021-22, provided in Attachment 1, be accepted.

Motion Lost

Ian Ker asked why the Annual Report provided online with the Agenda for the AGME is different from the one he downloaded from the City's website on 11th May 2023, which was presumably the one approved by Council?

Ian Ker asked why the 'Independent Auditor's Report' has been removed from the Table of Contents in the version attached to the online agenda and replaced by the 'Grant Funding and Support' section, and if there are any other apparent differences solely due to design and pagination? If not, what are the differences and were these differences approved by Council?



Chief Executive Officer, Glen Dougall responded that when the Annual Report was adopted by Council, at the April Ordinary Council Meeting, it had reference to have further editing and formatting. This has occurred, which is why it is different from the one originally adopted. When originally adopted, it was mainly the words not the format being adopted.

Ian Ker asked why the Annual Report fails to make any mention of either:
a) The post-August 2021 silence about further development of the Swan River Crossings project, or
b) The issues relating to the future of the CAT bus service, especially in light of the Council Meeting of 23rd March 2022?

Both projects are of great importance to the people and businesses of Fremantle and the Council and City should have been working to further the community's interests and reported on what had been done and achieved during the year.

Chief Executive Officer, Glen Dougall responded that:
a) the Swan River Crossing is a State Government process.
b) the CAT bus was a non-resolved issue in this Annual Report reporting year.

Ian Ker asked if the items will be addressed in the next Annual Report?

Chief Executive Officer, Glen Dougall responded that if both items have been dealt with in this financial year, then yes that is correct.

4. Public question time

Summary of questions from Ian Ker

Question 1

Why is the Annual Report provided online with the Agenda for the AGME different from the one I downloaded from the City's website on 11th May 2023, which was presumably the one approved by Council?

Response:

It has gone through a proofreading, design and pagination process to produce the final document which is what is provided online with the Agenda.

Question 2

The 'Independent Auditor's Report' has been removed from the Table of Contents in the version attached to the online agenda and replaced by the 'Grant Funding and Support' section.

Are any other apparent differences solely due to design and pagination?



If not, what are the differences and were these differences approved by Council?

Response:

The Independent auditor's Report is page 86 and are included along with the financial statements on page 90.

Editing changes were made to fit the format. There were no changes to the financial statements that were approved by the Council.

Question 3

Why does the Annual Report fail to make any mention of either:

- a) The post-August 2021 silence about further development of the Swan River Crossings project, or
- b) The issues relating to the future of the CAT bus service, especially in light of the Council Meeting of 23rd March 2022?

Both projects are of great importance to the people and businesses of Fremantle and the Council and City should have been working to further the community's interests and reported on what had been done and achieved during the year.

Response:

Swan River Crossings is a State govt. project and while we accept the City of Fremantle is a major stakeholder, we would not normally report on the process of a State govt. project.

Milestones to date include:

- June 23, 2021, looked at options for alignment and the city's preferred option - which we submitted to the Minister - was west of the existing bridge.
- This most closely aligned with the City's design principles which it adopted in June 2020.
- In October 2022, Council noted the community sentiment and sought more consultation from the Bridge alliance.
- In response to the elector's meeting in November 2022, the City wrote to the Minister acknowledging community concern and giving the feedback from that meeting.

Cat Bus: The issue is unresolved at this point.

Question 4

Why did the Council and City fail to engage with the community early in the process of the Swan River Crossings project or the future of the CAT bus service?



In both cases, we are now collectively in a difficult position that might have been avoided had Council and/or City of Fremantle acted in accordance with its own Community Engagement Policy – noting:

- a) the key purpose of the policy which is “to make better decisions by bringing the voices of communities and stakeholders into the topics that are important to them and to lead a culture which respects and welcomes community input”; and
- b) the Policy’s own definition of:
 - i) ‘community’ as including “individuals and groups of people not part of an organised structure or group” as well as
 - ii) ‘stakeholders’, defined as “people who are organised under the banner of a defined group or organisation”

Response:

In relation to the Swan River Crossing, the city has, on numerous occasions, adopted resolutions based on community feedback. It started in mid-2020 with the six principles that the City had, again in March 2021, and June 2022; those resolutions were put forward.

In relation to the CAT bus, there has been numerous consultations with the South Fremantle and Art Precinct groups, and there has been a range of reports go through the Council process. The most recent one on the operation, which has been reported to Council since 2020 right through to last month. During that process all sorts of things were discussed, some of the patronage conversations, some of the pricing points, some of the contributions to payment of it, and most recently the 30% rise in costs.

Question 5

What research did the City of Fremantle undertake to support its negotiations for continuation of the CAT service?

Response:

The City has provided reports in 2020, 2021, 2022, and most recently 2023 on the operation of the CAT bus. Unfortunately, the service itself does not provide data. Through PTA we are not aware of who uses it and why. We do have some numbers that come through, but not in the last few years. The City did gather some data through the Covid period, but that was subject to the service being reduced.

Question 6

How is it that the Rockingham Shuttle, which has run since 2007 and performs a similar function to the Fremantle CAT, only came to Council’s attention in the past couple of weeks?



Response:

The Rockingham Shuttle is a different service which is fully funded by the PTA and operates as standard user pay bus service.

Question 7

What discussions were held with other parties with respect to the continuation of the CAT service?

Response:

The City has held conversations with various stakeholders from Notre Dame and other Government Agencies like the Maritime Museum, Fishing Boat Harbour, and our Destination Working Group, City of Cockburn and Town of East Fremantle. No commitments to funding were provided by those groups.

Question 8

How is it that Fremantle MLA, Simone McGurk, and Transport Minister, now Deputy Premier, Rita Saffioti have said that they only became aware of this issue recently?

Response:

This is a question for the local state member and Deputy Premier.

Question 9

Will the Fremantle Council commit to applying its Community Engagement Policy fully and transparently in the review of its Community Engagement Policy that is due in March 2024?

In particular, given that the very nature of the Community Engagement Policy makes it 'High Impact – City Wide', will the Council engage at all four levels identified in the policy for such issues, namely:

- a) Inform
- b) Consult
- c) Involve, and
- d) Collaborate

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The City's Community Engagement Policy is due for review on 25 August 2025. Throughout this review, officers will engage the public through the appropriate consultation.



Summary of questions from Marija Vujcic

Question 1

For the last 3 years, I have noted that Fremantle's audited financial statements are presented so late each year in comparison to other councils?

For example, the City of Fremantle FY22 audited financial statements are dated 5 April 2023 whereas the completion date from neighbouring councils of Cockburn is 9 December 2022 and East Fremantle is 23 November 2022.

Response:

The City acknowledges that timelines associated with the finalisation of the annual financial statements have been longer than anticipated. The City is putting measures in place this year to improve the timeliness of the reports. An audit plan for 2022/23 has been agreed upon with the contract agent of the OAG to improve the times frames.

The interim audit is scheduled to commence on 26 June 2023 and the final audit in October 2023. Officers are estimating sign off prior to December this year.

Question 2

Are the City of Fremantle finance staff resources adequate to deal with the time and process requirements to finalise audited financial statements by 31 December each year?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The interim audit is scheduled to commence on 26 June 2023 and the final audit in October 2023. We are estimating sign off prior to December this year.

Question 3

What are the reasons for the extra payment of \$100,000 to our auditors?

Response:

The total OAG audit fee for 2022 is \$110,100 (excl GST). Additional audit fees in the 23FY relate to various other audits such as the statutory Regulation 17 and Regulation 5 audits to be undertaken every three years as per the Local Government Act.

Question 4

The City of Rockingham practices accrual accounting across all financials on a monthly basis. Why does the City of Fremantle not practice monthly accrual accounting and recording of monthly cash inflows and outflows?



Response:

The City account for rates, service charges, interest income, term deposits, insurance expenses, and interest expenses on borrowings and leases all on an accrual basis already. Everything else is recognised and recorded at the period they are encountered.

The City does undertake accrual accounting where practical. All external audits undertaken, including the Office of the Auditor General support the way that the City of Fremantle undertake accrual accounting.

We do monitor cash flow closely in order to manage investments effectively. The City is reviewing how it reports on purchase commitments as part of its monthly reporting cycle.

Question 5 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

If the City does practice (question 4 above), provide examples going back 6 months?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The City is happy to provide examples of how it undertakes accrual accounting, pending further clarification on the level of detail and format of information required. City officers will contact Cr. Vujcic to arrange a meeting so this can be clarified.

Question 6

I refer to page 10 of the annual report which refers to only the construction cost of \$47.9m for the Civic Centre. You have excluded all architectural fees, project management fees and other project costs. The audited Civic Centre cost are at least \$63m plus the added costs over the last 18 months. which went over budget and is in excess of \$65m. Will you amend the annual report to show at least the \$63m cost?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The figure of \$46.9m on page 10 of the annual report refers to the construction cost to reach practical completion of the Civic Centre building only, which was achieved during the annual report provided for this period.

Question 7

Why did you not report on total project costs?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The Annual Financial Statements is for the year ending 30 June 2022. Total project costs were reported to the Audit and Risk Management committee, and the Ordinary Meeting of Council in August of 2022.



Question 8 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

Will you provide an itemised list of construction and project costs spent on the Civic Centre from FY21-23 for transparency purposes?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The total project costs were reported to the Audit and Risk Management committee, and the Ordinary Meeting of Council in August of 2022.

Question 9 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

The FY22 statement of income result of \$2m is essentially due to the cut back on staff numbers and hiring. How many staff vacancies have not been filled since June 2020?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The net result for FY22 is due to achieving higher than budgeted revenue and incurring lower than budgeted expenditure. A variance in employee costs is only one of many contributing factors to the net result. There has been no cut back on staffing numbers. There was some turnover in staffing due labour market pressures and some of those positions remained vacant while replacements were sought. Of the vacancies that existed as at 30 June 2020, there are only two positions that remain vacant. One of these vacancies is not currently under active recruitment and remains on the City's establishment.

Question 10 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

What is the total number of staff in the finance section?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

There are a total of 19 people, across the Finance, Rates and Procurement Teams.

Question 11 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

How many staff have under 2 years of service?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The City has experienced turnover of staff commensurate with the broader sector. This has been driven by an increasingly challenging labour market which few organisations in WA have been immune from. The finance team is currently well resourced by a number of senior and technical finance professionals each holding significant experience in the local government sector. The Finance Manager and Finance Team Leader collectively hold over 20 years' experience in Local Government finance & accounting. Only 5 people within the Finance team hold less than 2 years service.

Question 12 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

What benefits to the ratepayers does the cut back on staff provide?



Response (*question taken on notice*):
There have been no staff cutbacks.

Question 13

The balancing last year's budget was predicated on the sale of Quarry Street for \$4.9m by 30 June 2023. (Note 31 in the financial statements refers to Quarry Street property sale as being re-budgeted). How will the \$4.9m impact this year's FY23/24 budget?

Response:

The sale proceeds were budgeted to be placed in reserve, so had no direct impact on the balancing of the budget. The only impact is on the balance of the reserve account.

Question 14

Why is the sale process taking so long?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The sales process is being delivered by contracted real estate agents in line with the requirements of section 3.58 of the Local Government Act. The process is affected by the market conditions outside of the control of the City of Fremantle.

Question 15

What does rebudgeted mean?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

It means re-budgeted from the previous financial year.

Question 16

The community has shown strong opposition on the defunding of the CAT bus. The community are vocal via emails, letters and attending council meetings. The PTA funds 40% and the Council 60%. The current Blue Bus service costs us \$360,000 to maintain. The restoration of the full Blue and Red CAT would cost about \$870,000 per year. Can you provide evidence that the Mayor has lobbied at a high level the following:

- (1) Notre Dame
- (2) PTA
- (3) Ports
- (4) State Govt

Can evidence be provided of the alternative preparations that the council has achieved to provide alternative transport that will replace the CAT bus service from the 1st October 2023?



Response (*question taken on notice*):

The City has continuously been working with the PTA on this issue and held discussions with other various entities since June 2020.

Question 17

If the Council's financials were better, would the CAT bus service be defunded?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

There are various reasons for the withdrawal of the CAT bus service as identified in the 24 May 2023 report to Council. This is taken as a rhetorical question.

Question 18

The Council has stated that it is not the council's role to fund state services, such as transport as justification for the defunding. Why does the city fund security in the civic centre and community safety "The City's officers strive to be the first responders to anti-social or nuisance behaviour and low level criminal activity such as street drinking and shop lifting"..?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The community safety is a function of the City through various plans and strategies adopted by Council.

Question 19

Why is this argument used to defund the CAT bus?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

There are various reasons for the withdrawal of the CAT bus service as identified in the 24 May 2023 report to Council.

Question 20

The city funds the Fremantle Arts Centre which makes over \$1m loss. Many local ratepayers and residents fund the service and get no benefit from it. The FAC is massively more expensive. Why was the CAT bus chosen over reducing FAC's budget?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

There are various reasons for the withdrawal of the CAT bus service as identified in the 24 May 2023 report to Council.

Question 21

The leasing of the Fremantle Markets has not gone out to tender in the last 50 years, if ever. The current operators, the Murdoch's have enjoyed, one can conclude, a monopoly. It is on public record that the city wants to renew the current operator's lease via a business plan process. Two separate



proposals were presented to the city via email unsolicited. These proposals indicate an appetite from the business community to participate in a tender process. The city has a substantial proposal from GTL Enterprises from 2022, one was revised and presented to the OCM on the 24 of May. The proposal was significantly better than the current proposal from the operator. The other proposal via email was from Warren Thomas, a long standing stall holder whose not for profit proposal had merit. What are justifications for not including the GTL Enterprises and Warren Thomas' proposals?

Response:

At the June 2020 ordinary meeting of council (C2006-9), council authorised the CEO to negotiate with Fremantle Markets Pty Ltd (FMPL) the terms of a possible lease extension for the current lease, with those terms to be brought back to council for further consideration. A proposed set of terms was brought back to council for consideration in May 2023, in accordance with the 2020 resolution.

The advertising of the business plan provides an opportunity for anyone to make a submission on the disposition as proposed in the business plan. Any party may make a submission in response to the business plan.

Question 22

The Mayor has stated that the Murdoch's owned the Fremantle Markets name and the 150 operators, when clearly the lease states otherwise. Why did the Mayor provide misinformation to the public?

Response:

Mayor, Hannah Fitzhardinge responded that at the last Council meeting she noted the correction on the ownership of the name.

Officer Response:

Officers provided updated information on the naming rights, at which point the Mayor promptly provided a clarification to the ordinary meeting of council in May 2023. The operators at the markets operate through agreement with the head tenant.

Question 23

Why did not the CEO correct the Mayor on her misinformation given that he is the primarily negotiator with FMPL and was involved in the drafting of the original 2008 lease.

Response:

Officers provided updated information on the naming rights, at which point the Mayor promptly provided a clarification to the ordinary meeting of council in May



2023. The operators at the markets operate through agreement with the head tenant.

Question 24 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

Provide reasons why the CEO did not provide the GTL Enterprise proposal to elected members prior to the decision to go with the current operator?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

At the June 2020 ordinary meeting of council (C2006-9), council authorised the CEO to negotiate with Fremantle Markets Pty Ltd (FMPL) the terms of a possible lease extension for the current lease, with those terms to be brought back to council for further consideration. A proposed set of terms was brought back to council for consideration in May 2023, as requested by council in June 2020. Officers are currently following the process requested in June 2020. The business plan process provides an opportunity for any party wishing to make comment in relation to the current proposal.

Summary of questions from Charles Nicholson

Question 1

When will council respond to my five or more emails dating back to 7/8/21 and my thinking aloud feature in the Herald on 21/8/21, requesting Council fix the port beach carpark drainage that scours the sand access paths that cost our rates to restore after every heavy rainfall?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

Officers have received correspondence from you on this matter and we note that you have met with officers on site to discuss the various issues relating to erosion at Port Beach. The City and state government have been working together to provide a short to medium term beach management response whilst longer term approaches are being considered.

Question 2

Does council employ a coastal engineer?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The City does not employ a coastal engineer direct but does seek consultant advice when required.

Question 3

Who supervises the contractor who operates at random, digging out from behind the dunes into the carpark, which then gets washed out, and repeats the process over again?



Response (*questions taken on notice*):

The parks and reserves natural areas teams look after the management of the beaches and the capital projects that happen there.

Summary of questions from John Dowson (Fremantle Society)

Question 1 (*submitted, but not asked during the meeting*)

The City of Fremantle consistently finalises the audited financial statements late each year and the figures reported and disclosed lose relevance to ratepayers being so out of date. Why was the finalisation of the audited financial statements delayed in FY22 and will the same happen in FY23?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The City acknowledges that timelines associated with the finalisation of the annual financial statements have been longer than anticipated. The City is putting measures in place this year to improve the timeliness of the reports. An audit plan for 2022/23 has been agreed upon with the contract agent of the OAG to improve the times frames.

The interim audit is scheduled to commence on 26 June 2023 and the final audit in October 2023. Officers are estimating sign off prior to December this year.

Question 2 (*submitted, but not asked during the meeting*)

The FY22 audited financial statements are dated 5 April 2023. Why doesn't the City of Fremantle have sufficient finance staff resources or internal controls processes to complete the audit process much earlier?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

See question 1 response.

Question 3

The statement of cash flows (page 6 of the financial statements) shows a negative outflow of cash of \$6m (similar to the negative outflow of \$6m in FY21). Had a number of significant capital projects not been delayed in FY22 the cash flow situation would have been catastrophic. The council is not financially sustainable based on this trend without raising rates even higher, selling more investment properties or reducing staff/services to ratepayers. What is the council doing to reverse this negative outflow of cash trend?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The Long-term Financial Plan indicates that the City will remain financially sustainable into the future.



The City always maintains a balanced budget to ensure its financial sustainability in each relevant financial year. The City use reserves to fund some capital projects.

In 2022FY, the \$6m reduction of cash flow is related to transfer from reserves for capital projects. This included the completion of the Walyalup Civic Centre project which was a substantial project.

Question 4 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

On page 10 of the annual report the council has again mis-stated the actual civic centre total project cost by misleadingly only referring to construction costs (\$47.9m) and excludes architectural, project management and other costs. Why is the total project cost which is in excess of \$65m not transparently disclosed?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The figure of \$46.9m on page 10 of the annual report refers to the construction cost to reach practical completion of the Civic Centre building only, which was achieved during the annual report provided for this period.

Question 5 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

Despite the council saying the civic centre was finished in November 2021 the civic centre continues to require capital expenditure such as in Note 20 to the financial statements with a further \$1m committed for further construction and fit outs. When will civic centre construction and fit out costs cease and what is the capital expenditure on the civic centre in the FY23 year to date?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

Practical completion as per the original building contract was achieved at the end of November 2021.

The fit out costs relate to the fit out of commercial tenancies. This work is carried out in line with tenant requirements and lease negotiations, as such expenditure in this area is likely into the future. YTD costs relating to expenditure in FY23 are publicly available in monthly financial reporting.

Question 6 *(submitted, but not asked during the meeting)*

What is the maintenance cost for the civic centre budgeted for in FY23?

Response *(question taken on notice):*

The total maintenance costs budget for FY23 is \$208K.

Question 7

In Note 8 to the financial statements the council's heritage assets are not show separately which is done openly and transparently by other councils including the



City of Perth. This question has been asked previously but been ignored. Given the importance of Fremantle's heritage as stated by the council, why are heritage assets not shown separately in the notes to the financial statements in line with best practice?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The City ensures compliance with the accounting standards. For assets, there is no requirement to show heritage assets separately. The City is open to reviewing this position in future financial years.

Question 8

In Note 12 to the financial statements the operating expenses spent on investment properties (which includes heritage properties) is only \$10,455. Given investment properties totals \$23m how does the council justify such low spending to maintain upkeep on the council's investment properties? This issue has been highlighted to the Fremantle Society by a whistleblower that stated that Fremantle Council financial processes are so poor that millions of dollars each year are being wasted.

Response (*question taken on notice*):

There are 3 buildings classified as investment properties, each containing multiple tenancies within each.

Maintenance costs are incorporated in to lease agreements and payable by the tenant, and as such not shown as City costs.

The \$10,455 reported in the financial statements relates to the component of electricity and water cost not recoverable from tenants.

Question 9

In Note 8 to the financial statements the additions to renew plant & equipment is zero. Given the gross plant & equipment asset base of \$10.9m how does the council justify nil renewal expenditure for plant and equipment which is depreciating?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

Purchases below the \$5,000 threshold is not capitalised. During the 22FY no plant and equipment with higher values were purchased. Noting that maintenance costs on assets are captured as an expense and not asset renewal.

Question 10

Why is there no provision for rehabilitation recorded for the contaminated Jones St property and the South Fremantle landfill site as required by accounting standards?



Response (*question taken on notice*):

To be able to do a provision the City would need to know the cost. At this stage, the City has not yet been informed on the rehabilitation work required to be able to determine the costs involved. The Jones street rehabilitation work is forecast in the City's 10 year financial plan.

Question 11

Has the council decision of 2021 (C2107-1): "Requests the CEO prepare a report on potential medium and longer term options for the Jones St site" been done and is it available to view?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

This report is being developed with consideration of operating requirements for a new operations centre.

Question 12 (*submitted, but not asked during the meeting*)

What are the year-on-year costs and income for the Jones Street site since date of purchase?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The 2 Jones Street property generates approximately \$16,500 per annum in rental income. Expenditure totals approximately \$10,900 per annum.

Question 13 (*submitted, but not asked during the meeting*)

The council would have made an operating loss in FY22 had it actually employed the planned staff numbers. How many staff positions are vacant and what impact does this have on ratepayer services?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The City always has a balanced budget to ensure its financial sustainability in each relevant financial year including the FY22. There are 10 positions vacant since June 2022. However, 5 of those vacancies have been placed on hold for the time being.

Question 14 (*submitted, but not asked during the meeting*)

In Note 31 to the financial statements the sale of the Quarry St property sale had been delayed yet included in the budget. For what reasons are the sales process being held up and what are the sale pre-conditions?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The sales process is being delivered by contracted real estate agents in line with the requirements of section 3.58 of the Local Government Act. The timeline



associated with the process is affected by the market conditions outside of the control of the City of Fremantle.

Question 15

On page 44 of the annual report there is reference to the rollout of 300 new laptops and PC devices in FY22. Is this actually correct and where is this shown in the notes to the financial statements?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

Yes, 300 laptops are leased for employee use, with the lease costs to commence in the FY23 as per the lease agreement.

Question 16

The following statement on p22 of the Annual Report is misleading: "The Plan will guide \$4.9 million of approved conservation work". This statement infers that \$4.9 million of conservation works have already been approved, when they have not. What was allocated was \$770,000 for replacing the shingle roof with inappropriate tin sheets, damaging the heritage integrity of the place. Will the misleading statement be corrected?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

This question is considered rhetorical.

Question 17

What sum of money is proposed to be allocated in the 2022-2023 budget for restoration works at the Arts Centre?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The Art Centre Roof project is budgeted at \$750K in the approved 2022/2023 budget.

Question 18

What efforts have been made recently to progress a previous council's efforts to have the Arts Centre nationally heritage listed and ultimately World Heritage listed along with the Fremantle Prison?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

None. The City received clear advice in 2015 from the federal government that the City's application for the Arts Centre to be included on the National List had been assessed and not supported.

Question 19

Fremantle used to have the best Local History Centre in Western Australia, and now it is a shadow of its former self. The magnificent Town Hall interior is



badly neglected and unusable for many events. Yet p25 of the Annual Report promises: “a fresh chapter for service delivery and upgraded public facilities for the Fremantle community and an exciting new era for the City”. Will the estimated \$25,000 needed for glass sheeting to move the Local History Centre from its underground position to the ground floor be provided in the 2023-2024 budget and be treated as urgent?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

Information regarding budget inclusions for the 2023-2024 FY will be available following council adoption on the 28 June 2023.

Question 20

It is understood that a working group has been formed to look at the future use of the town hall interior, but this will take years. Will urgent works for the Town Hall interior be budgeted in 2023-2024 so we can enjoy the “fresh” chapter with “upgraded facilities” and an “exciting new era” as promised, but not delivered?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

Information regarding budget inclusions for the 2023-2024 FY will be available following council adoption on the 28 June 2023.

Question 21

The Fremantle Society questions asked at FPOL on 10 May about the Fremantle Markets were scantily answered, and more specific questions are asked here: In relation to the Fremantle Markets Environs Masterplan 2007 council commissioned report, which of its 31 policies have been implemented, in particular policy 20?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The plan remains as an informing document when planning for renewal and maintenance works as part of the annual budget process. A variety of initiatives outlined in the plan have been delivered and the City will continue to refer to the document as and when future works are planned and delivered.

Question 22

As per clause 2.3 of the Operating strategy, was the money (\$150,000 per year for 10 years) set aside and spent on conservations works as intended? What specifically was the \$1.5 million spent on?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

Information regarding investment in to works was provided in the publicly available agenda item.



Question 23

When the Fremantle Society asked: "As per clause 4.14, does the Market Manager meet with the stallholders at least 4 times per year?" the answer was "Yes." But that is not what stallholders tell us. Could that be checked please?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The current lessee has advised they do meet with stallholders at least 4 times per year.

Question 24

The recently released Business Plan out for public comment mentions "up to \$3 million" will be sought from the Murdochs to get a new lease. "Up to" could be substantially less. Why was a definite figure not included in the Business Plan?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

A tender process is required to be carried out prior to confirming a definite price.

Question 25

The Business Plan is informed by an asset management plan prepared for the Fremantle Markets which included conservation together with works to meet health and building compliance issues and this was used in the development of the business plan. Is that plan publicly available?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

Asset management planning information and data sits within the City's asset management system. This information can be provided upon request.

Question 26

Why does the Business Plan not clearly articulate the priority of works needed at the markets?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The business plan clearly outlines the list of priority works that the tenant contribution will fund.

Question 27

Why are no conservation works mentioned in the Business Plan when the Conservation Plan of 2007 clearly detailed works needed and their priority?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The business plan relates to proposed terms regarding the disposal of the property, and not the status of the conservation plan.

Summary of questions from Clayton Gunning



Question 1

Council has failed dismally to get the best outcome for anyone with reworking of the Fremantle Public Golf Course.
What is the status of the EOI?

Response:

The City has a public expression of interest process open now to explore operators for the golf course. These submissions are currently being reviewed.

Question 2

What is the plan if a suitable partner with \$3m+ to invest doesn't come around?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

This will be considered following the conclusion of the current tender process.
The Presiding Member allowed the following late questions to be asked.

Summary of questions from Mark Woodcock

Question 1

Can electors see where money came from for projects?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

This is made publicly available in the annual budget.

Question 2

Will the golf course return to its status when it was in the state league?

Response (*question taken on notice*):

The golf course is functioning, and we are not aware of this status.



5. Acceptance of motions

1. MOTION SUBMITTED BY IAN KER

Moved: Ian Ker

Seconded: Sam Pickup

That Council establish means of achieving more robust and ongoing engagement with, and understanding of the expectations and aspirations of, the Fremantle community, including, but not limited to:

1. Community Engagement Panel:

- That provides a community voice to help guide decision making on major projects, plans and strategies and issues affecting the City.
- That reflects the City's demographic profile.
- Is constituted in a fair and transparent manner.
- That will be heard and facilitated in an impartial manner.
- That will be appropriately supported during the process and their participation valued.
- Council will give serious consideration to recommendations of the panel.

2. Advisory Groups on important issues of ongoing concern, possibly similar to the Fremantle Youth Network, such as 'sustainability and environment', 'transport', 'universal access' and 'community safety'.

These to be in addition to existing My Say and other project-specific or issue-specific consultation opportunities and support of precinct groups.

The CEP and Advisory Groups will publish Minutes of meetings to further enhance community awareness.

Carried by simple majority vote



2. MOTION SUBMITTED BY IAN KER

Moved: Ian Ker

Seconded: Mark Woodcock

That Council provide more timely responses to questions raised by members of the public at Public Question time at Committee or Council Meetings than the current practice of including such responses in the agenda for the subsequent meeting.

Carried by simple majority vote

3. MOTION PROPOSED BY IAN KER

Moved: Ian Ker

Seconded: Marija Vujcic

That the City of Fremantle improve the accessibility of the administration, over and above the current practice of providing only a single point of access for the whole Administration by phone or email, with the standard email response that 'your enquiry will be dealt with within 10 working days', which can result in unnecessary delays.

Opportunities might include such simple things as provision of a general email address and phone contact number for each functional area of the City:

- Governance and communications
- Infrastructure and project delivery
- Planning, place and urban development
- Community development
- City business

Carried by simple majority vote



4. MOTION PROPOSED BY GINA BLAKEMORE

Moved: Gina Blakemore

Seconded: Mark Woodcock

That City of Fremantle reinstate the Blue and Red CAT Buses back to 10 minutes in September 2023.

Carried by simple majority vote

6. Closure

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 7:19pm