

## 8.5. Feedback on Sugars Beach Consultation – Next Steps

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### Recommendation

1. That a revised scope and budget for Sugars Beach Project be submitted to next financial year's 2023/24 Annual Business Plan process for consideration, acknowledging the feedback from the Community to limit the project to toilet facilities and interpretive signage and to ensure that the area be kept as natural as possible.
2. That the revised scope and designs for Sugars Beach be included in the consultation process for the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget.
3. That the remaining budget of \$1,350,000 previously allocated to the Sugars Beach project in 2021/22 (\$350,000) and 2022/23 (\$1,000,000) be returned to Council at the mid-year budget review.

### Prior Resolutions

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number	Report Title	Resolution Number
17 October 2022	8.4	Sugars Beach Murray Mouth Infrastructure Upgrade Project - Summary of Public Consultation	ACM221682
20 June 2022	2.1	Adjourned Debate - Sugars Beach Murray Mouth Icon Project	ACM221525
16 May 2022	9.2	Sugars Beach Revised Plan for Consultation	ACM221491 & ACM221492
15 March 2021	14.1	Sugars Beach Murray Mouth Icon Project Update (Confidential)	ACM21933

### Community Strategic Plan Impact

LIVEABLE	Distinctive townships, places, spaces, and transport networks that support active lifestyles vibrant cultures and productive enterprise
GREEN	Climate ready, a place where nature is valued, and resources are managed sustainably and creatively to support a new economy
CONNECTED	Created for, with and by the community. We are safe, healthy and all enjoying accessible infrastructure and services

## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Sugars Beach Murray Mouth Infrastructure Upgrade Project (the Project) and to seek endorsement for a revised Project scope and to propose the next steps.

As reported in Item 8.4 of the 17 October 2022 Council Meeting, the feedback received from the community during the consultation regarding the Sugars Beach, Murray Mouth Infrastructure Upgrade Project was resoundingly to apply a 'light touch' to the area with a focus on 'keeping it natural'. The only hard infrastructure improvements sought for the location are toilet facilities and interpretive signage.

Council in considering the report unanimously resolved (ACM221682):

- 1. That Council receives and notes the report summarising feedback regarding the Sugars Beach Murray Mouth Infrastructure Project.*
- 2. That Council notes that the feedback received indicates that the infrastructure upgrades sought by the respondents Sugars Beach are limited to toilet facilities and interpretive signage and overall that the area be kept as natural as possible.*
- 3. That a further report providing specific recommendations for infrastructure upgrades at Sugars Beach / Murray Mouth be provided to Council post the November 2022 Elections.*

This report is not going to duplicate the contents of the 17 October 2022 report that contained a background on the Sugars Beach Project and all of the community consultation feedback received. To view this report, see report 8.4 in the 17 October 2022 agenda found on Council's website at the following link: [Public Agenda for Alexandrina Council Ordinary Meeting 17:00 PM - Monday, 17 October 2022](#)

Therefore, a revised Project scope is recommended that includes toilet facilities and interpretive signage only. It is considered that further work is required to determine:

### Toilet Facility

- appropriate capacity (number of toilets)
- location (taking into account feedback already received during the consultation process, cultural or environmental constraints and considerations, as well as visual aesthetics.
  - Note: the consultation survey asked respondents to indicate a preferred location for toilet facilities, roughly nearer to the Murray Mouth viewing area, or nearer to the food vendor truck/'commercial' (water based business launching area) facilities. The response to this question was overwhelmingly nearer to the food vendor truck/commercial area (preferred by 74.6% or 229 of the 309 respondents to this question).
- style (perhaps in keeping with the Mundoo Channel facilities)
- cost

### Interpretive Signage

- content (environmental, Ngarrindjeri culture, post settlement culture)
- style, artwork
- locations and extent
- cost

Developing an appropriate scope and costings that resolves and specifies these elements is important and would be the subject of an initial engagement/collaborative process with the Ngarrindjeri community. It is recommended that this scope be produced and be considered as part

of the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget process for completion in the next financial year. It is estimated that this scope will be between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

By providing a revised scope in the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget process will ensure that the scope and designs can be consulted on during the budget process prior to implementation in the next financial year.

It is further noted there is some maintenance work required in the area, including the replacement of an old fence and that future projects for the area may include the segregation of the carpark from the road to address safety concerns.

Council originally allocated in the capital program \$1.35m to fund the Council contributions towards the Sugars Beach Project (\$350,000 in 2021/22 and \$1,000,000 in 2022/23) which was previously matched by a \$1m State Government commitment, subject to the awarding of a \$2m grant bid by the Federal Government. With the change in Federal Government, the relevant grant has ceased, resulting also in the loss of the State Government grant allocation leaving only Council contributions of \$1,350,000.

Council has spent \$7,192 of the \$350,000 budget from 2021/22 and approximately \$1,600 of the \$1,000,000 from 2022/23.

It is recommended that remaining funds from 2021/22 and 2022/23 be removed from the budget and once the revised scope is finalised the revised budget be submitted for the 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget process for consideration.

#### **Attachments**

Nil