

Issue

The Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs (Committee) has received a petition from Chris Burke, Director of Wild Fig, regarding the need for small business to be supported during major redevelopment projects, such as the Scarborough Foreshore Redevelopment.

The Committee has requested that the Minister for Local Government provide comments on the terms of the petition and submission as part of preliminary inquiries.

The Department of Local Government, on behalf of the Minister, has requested the City of Stirling (City) contribute to background material and a response by providing information on the Scarborough Foreshore Redevelopment.

Background

On 27 January 2013, the then Premier Colin Barnett announced that an initial contribution of \$30 million had been provided to transform the Scarborough beach and surrounding areas.

The \$100 million beachfront redevelopment is being delivered by the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA) with the City of Stirling providing new public facilities, such as the Scarborough Beach Pool located at the southern part of the precinct, and working with the private sector to foster more development.

The State Government, through the MRA has contributed \$48 million to the project, with \$53.4 million from the City, including \$26 million for the Scarborough Beach Pool.

The MRA is responsible for the day to day project management of the implementation of the Scarborough project and the City is a project funding partner. This is governed by a formal binding Funding Agreement between the MRA and the City.

The Governance Structure at the most senior level involves a Project Steering Committee comprising the CEOs of both the MRA and the City, and Executive Team members of both the City and the MRA. The focus of this group is oversight of the project development and implementation.

MRA completed Scarborough beachfront forward works in December 2016 with Georgiou Group appointed head contractor in January 2017.

The City commenced construction on the \$26 million Scarborough Pool facility in September 2016. Construction incorporated geothermal works, a 50m outdoor heated pool and a separate leisure pool, spectator seating for 200 people, change rooms, shade and family areas, a restaurant, a kiosk and an administration building.

Current Situation

A number of businesses in the Scarborough Foreshore Precinct area have claimed they have suffered significant financial losses and are struggling to trade due to disruptions caused by the redevelopment works. The State Government has acted to administer a disruption payment regime to the small businesses affected by the Scarborough Redevelopment works.

The City of Stirling identified mechanisms to provide temporary financial relief to the local business owners located in the Scarborough Foreshore Precinct.

Firstly, on Tuesday 22 August 2017, Council approved temporary financial relief to local business owners located in the Scarborough Foreshore Precinct.

The City sought submissions from business owners in early October and received 26 applications before the 25th October 2017 closing date.

Of the 26 applications received, 25 met the eligibility criteria and were deemed successful. One submission was not eligible as the business did not fall within the Scarborough Foreshore Precinct area.

The City is in the process of preparing the cheques, which are expected to be mailed out to the successful applicants by 19 November 2017.

Secondly, the City reviewed the Fees and Charges that were applied to local businesses within the Scarborough Foreshore area, and Council opted to waive these fees for the 2017/2018 financial year. The two fees which were waived included the 'Scarborough Outdoor Eating Area Licences' and the 'Food Business Inspection Fee (Low to High Risk)'.