



MINUTE OF THE MAYOR

Dated: 23 September 2019

RE: Trees at the Coal Loader

It has been exciting to see the Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability establish itself as such a popular and well-used community site. The Platform now hosts regular events and the community feedback I receive is overwhelmingly positive. However, many people have mentioned to me that they would like to see more shade on the Platform, especially in the summer months when they would like to be able to picnic or spend extended time there.

There is space to plant some trees around the periphery of the Platform. However, as the Platform faces west this would not ameliorate the heat of the sun on a summer afternoon. The colonnade along the water's edge was designed to host grape vines that would provide summer shade. This year, the colonnade will support hop plants, with the hops being harvested and used in a weekend Short Course on beer brewing in February.

However, hop plants are not an optimal solution for the colonnade. To maximise the use of the Coal Loader Platform throughout summer, I believe we need to find a shade solution, be it trees, vines or a shade cover that is erected for the summer months each year.

I am therefore recommending that Council request the Director of Open Space and Environmental Services to prepare a report on options for providing shade on the Coal Loader Platform, including the cost of installing and maintaining each option.

I also believe that, as a Council, we have a duty of care to provide essential facilities in recreational areas, including toilets, a water fountain and some seating. This is particularly important for families with young children, older people and people with special access needs who can't easily walk across the site to toilets or seating. I am therefore proposing that the review of shade be extended to include a review of the facilities provided on the Platform, including the cost of installing and maintaining each option.

I therefore recommend:

1. THAT a report be prepared on ways to provide additional shade at the Coal Loader Platform in time for the 2020/21 summer. The report should:

- a) provide a range of options for Council to consider, including planting additional trees along the periphery of the Platform as well as options for shade using the existing colonnade;
- b) include a review of essential facilities on the Platform and recommendations for providing additional facilities, such as toilets and a drinking fountain, if required;
- c) include the cost of installing and maintaining each option; and
- d) be provided to Council in time to incorporate a project in the 2020/21 Operational Plan if required.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**