

Eildon Reserves Redevelopment – Deliberative Panel

**Deliberative Panel Session One
Summary Report**

Murrindindi Shire Council

24 February 2023

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Giving every person a voice.

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and deeply respects the
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Consultation

Unless otherwise stated, all feedback documented by Capire Consulting Group and any person(s) acting on our behalf is written and/or recorded during our program/consultation activities.

Capire staff and associates take great care while transcribing participant feedback but unfortunately cannot guarantee the accuracy of all notes. We are however confident that we capture the full range of ideas, concerns and views expressed during our consultation activities.

Unless otherwise noted, the views expressed in our work represent those of the participants and not necessarily those of our consultants or our clients.

VERSION	AUTHOR	AUTHORISED	DATE
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1 Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Deliberative Panel – Session One, including key questions and discussion topics raised by Panel members.

1.1 Background

Murrindindi Shire Council is seeking to redevelop the Eildon Reserves. The aim of the redevelopment is to increase green space and recreational spaces available in the area, and to draw regional tourists to Eildon. To part fund this redevelopment scheme, Council is proposing to sell two underutilised land parcels in Eildon.

Council has engaged with the community previously about the Eildon Community Plan, Parks and Recreation Strategy, Lake Eildon Master Plan and Eildon Reserves Improvement Plan. Through these engagements, Council has scoped and secured funding for the project from the State and Commonwealth governments. Concept designs have also been drafted for discussions with key stakeholders and the community.

As part of Council's funding model for the project, Council has proposed the sale of two land parcels to part fund the redevelopment. This ensures grant funding is secured and to pay for specific elements of the concept plans. This has garnered mixed views from the community, with petitions sent to Council objecting to the land parcel sales. In light of this, Council is partnering with Capire Consulting Group to deliver a Deliberative Engagement program to understand these mixed views and to provide a space for the community to decide a way forward for the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment project.

1.2 Session overview

Session One of the Deliberative Panel was held on Thursday 23 February from 5:30 - 8:30pm at the Eildon Primary School. The purpose of the session was to introduce Panel members to the Deliberative Panel process and provide information about the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment. The agenda of the Session is outlined in Table 1 below:

Time	Item	Lead
5.35pm	Welcome and introductions	Capire
6.00pm	Introduction to the Panel Panel purpose, roles, outcomes Panel communication Q&A	Capire
6.30pm	Discussion: how will the Panel work together?	All
6.45pm	Comfort break	All
6.55pm	Key information about the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment project Q&A	Council
7.35pm	Discussion: what other information do we need to know more about?	All
7.45pm	Discussion: criteria to decide on the way forward – brainstorming	All
8.00pm	Comfort break	All
8.10pm	Discussion: criteria to decide on the way forward – level of comfort	All
8.25pm	Next steps and close	Capire

1.3 Session objectives

The objectives of the session were to:

- help the panel get familiar with the project, the team and each other
- introduce participants to their role, purpose and outcomes of panel sessions
- develop and agree on principles for how we are going to work together to make recommendations
- present key information about the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment project and the journey so far
- develop criteria to develop recommendations for Council

1.4 Participants

Panel members were recruited via an expression of interest process:

- 30 community members expressed their interest and were invited as Panel members.
- 25 community members confirmed their commitment and received a Welcome Pack prior to Session One.
- 24 Panel members attended the first Deliberative Panel session.

Livia Bonazzi (Chief Executive Officer) and Anna Paix (Community Planning Officer) from Council also attended the Session as observers.

2 Session summary and outcomes

This section provides a summary of the key discussions and presentations during the session. A recording of the presentations delivered during the session is available on Council 'The Loop' website ([click here](#)).

2.1 Introduction to the Deliberative Panel

Presentation by Capire Consulting Group

Denise Francisco (Senior Associate) from Capire Consulting Group delivered a presentation about the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment Deliberative Panel. The presentation contained:

- engagement timeline
- definition, purpose, and scope of the Deliberative Panel
- roles and responsibilities of Panel members
- what Panel members can expect during the Panel process and tips to participate
- how outcomes of the sessions of the engagement will be reported
- communication methods during the Panel process.

No question was raised by Panel members.

Presentation slides are available for public access on Council's 'The Loop' website.

2.2 Principles to work together

A group discussion was facilitated to identify shared principles for how Panel members will work together. Principles raised and agreed by Panel members are:

- We will have mutual respect for each other's perspectives, and won't speak over another person when they are speaking.
- We will raise our hands to make a comment and ask questions.
- We will declare any potential conflicts of interest to enable an open and transparent conversation.
- We will be open to the Panel process and to what we might learn about the Project.
- We will keep discussions in the Panel confidential to honour the Panel process, we do not share or post about our conversations on social media.
- We will make an effort to sit with different many panel members for each group activity to understand different points of view.

2.3 Eildon Reserves Redevelopment

Presentation by Shire of Murrindindi Council

Stuart Coller (Manager Community Wellbeing) and Jamie Carns (Coordinator Project Delivery) from the Murrindindi Shire Council delivered a presentation about the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment. The presentation included information about:

- How has Council engaged with the community about the Project
- Why has the redevelopment been prioritised
- Proposed funding model

- Grant overview and risks of not accepting the grant
- Opportunities present if the land is sold.

Presentation slides and a recording of the presentation are available for public access on Council's 'The Loop' website at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/eildonpark

Questions raised by Panel members

Participants raised various questions during the Q&A time after the presentation, regarding multiple topics relevant to the Eildon Reserves Redevelopment. Questions asked are outlined below and can also be reviewed in the recorded presentation.

Previous engagement

- Why were there only 60 contributors to the 93 surveys collected? How has this impacted the analysis of survey results by Council?

Land sale and future uses

- Why and how were the two proposed parcels of land for sale selected?
- Is there an option for partial sale of land?
- What is the current estimated value of the land proposed for sale and how accurate is the estimate?
- Will the land sale be sufficient to cover the remaining funds of the project?
- How will excess funding from the land sale be allocated, if sold?
- How will project ensure existing characteristics of Eildon is protected and maintained if the land is being sold?
- How will the land be used and developed, if sold? Could the land be developed as Key and Essential Worker Housing?

State government grant

- What are the consequences of not committing to the grants?

Potential impact of the project

- What are the benefits and impacts of this project to the overall community and other existing facilities in Eildon?

Ongoing operation and maintenance of the site

- What are the estimated costs for going operation and maintenance?

Further information to be provided by Council

Panel members were also interested in other topics and information about the Project to help support discussions during the Panel process. Further information will be provided by Council in upcoming sessions, regarding:

- breakdown of proposed funding
- details of the proposed land sale, including estimated value and how funds will be allocated
- possible use and development of the land parcels, if sold
- examples and case studies of similar projects done by other Councils.

2.4 Drafting criteria to decide on the way forward

Following Council presentation, Panel members were asked to have small group discussions to brainstorm criteria to decide on the way forward. This will be used to assist the Panel to make recommendations to Council. All feedback has been summarised as a list of draft criteria, which will be reviewed and finalised in Session Two.

- The decision must be evidence based, produced through an open and transparent Panel process.
- The decision must benefit all members of the Eildon community, including children, young people, the elderly, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and businesses.
- The decision encourages economic growth and addresses community needs in response to population growth in Eildon.
- The decision encourages growth in tourism by attracting new and existing visitors to Eildon all year round.
- The decision provides sufficient green open spaces that is utilised for the whole of Eildon.
- The decision considers funding to be contributed adequately and effectively.
- The decision considers other related impacts, including parking arrangements and surrounding facilities to the site.
- The decision values, protects, and celebrates existing characteristics of Eildon.
- The decision honours the planning and processes that have been done by the Project so far.

3 Next steps

The second Panel Session will be held on Saturday 25 February 2023 from 2:00pm to 5:30pm for the Panel to explore different ideas and have further discussions about the impacts of each option.

Session One recording and other relevant materials are available on Council's 'The Loop' website.



QR code to Project page on Council 'The Loop' website

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