

Community Consultative Committee
SUNBURY OUT OF HUME CITY COUNCIL
Report

April 2014

2014

Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee



In April 2014 the Sunbury out Hume Community Consultative Committee conducted nine public consultations across the Hume City Council region. This report details final recommendations based on the feedback that was provided by the community.

Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee

April 2014

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Chairman's Welcome

The Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee is pleased to present this report as a summary of a community consultation process conducted during the month of April 2014 in relation to a new municipality including Sunbury. This process is separate from but also supplements the voluntary poll conducted across Hume City Council in October 2013, and the call for written submissions by the previously appointed Local Government (Sunbury out of Hume City Council) Review Panel ("the Local Government Panel"). In conjunction with the two reports prepared by independent consultants, KPMG, this report will inform the Local Government Panel's report to the Minister for Local Government due to be finalised by 30 June 2014. This report has also been provided directly to the Minister to assist with the making of a decision in relation to this long standing issue.



Amanda Millar MP

Member of the Legislative Council for Northern Victoria

Chair Sunbury Out of Hume Community Consultative Committee

The voluntary poll conducted in October 2013 resulted in a 61% result in favour of a new municipality for Sunbury being established. The Hon. Jeanette Powell, Minister for Local Government, responded to this result by the establishment of a Local Government Panel – as had been foreshadowed during the earlier communications and in the commissioned reports prepared by independent consultants, KPMG. The Minister also heeded calls from the community asking for the chance to have a more detailed say in aspects of a new municipality through the establishment of a committee of volunteers to seek more detailed input into a series of relevant matters prescribed by the Committee's terms of reference.

It was a great privilege to be asked to chair this Committee. The subsequent announcement of the appointees to the Committee highlighted the great depth of community leadership, commitment and expertise which was able to be harnessed in forming this Committee. As Chair, I would like to thank each member of the Committee for their time, hard work, good faith and valued input into this process. Committee members were asked to give up a huge amount of time over a period of two months and they have done this most generously. I acknowledge, thank and note the contribution of Catherine Borazio, Susan Duncan, John Hennessy, Elizabeth Kosanovic, Phillip Lithgow, Phillip Ripper, Peter Ralph and Lawrence Seyers. Each person has, in my view, brought a genuine commitment to ensuring that the voices of the community were truly heard as part of this process.

I extend the Committee's thanks to the three members of the Local Government Panel - Brian Haratsis, Kelvin Spiller and Maxine Cooper - for their willingness and commitment in working with the Committee throughout this process. This has involved attending many of the Committee's scheduled events and meetings.

I also thank the Hon. Tim Bull, Minister for Local Government, for his interest in this process since his ministerial appointment and for making his time available to attend one of the Committee's public forums – so that he could hear the views of the public first hand. I thank the previous Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Jeanette Powell, who has played a very significant part in this process and many community members have also noted her major contribution on this issue.

On behalf of the Committee, I extend thanks to a number of staff of the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, including Dr Leighton Vivian and Shaan Bajwa, and also to James Martin and Simon Price from the Minister's Office. Their assistance – together with that of the Electorate Officers in my own office including Anna Byrne, Catherine Edwards, Charles Everist and Angela Lilford – has been critical to ensuring that this large and significant task was able to be completed within the set timelines.

The Committee thanks the following organisations and their staff for their assistance with providing the venues for both public forums, listening posts and other committee meetings, including Hume City Council, Diggers Rest General Store, Sunbury Football Club, Tullamarine Neighbourhood House and most especially Sunbury Community Health (noting the generous assistance of Phillip Ripper and Helen Edwards). The Committee thanks Radio 3NRG and local print media for their assistance with publicity of the sessions.

Importantly, the Committee extends its thanks to the more than 500 community members who attended the nine listening posts and public forums across the consultation process, and most especially to the 124 community members who subsequently submitted written feedback forms and other written input. A vast majority of consultation processes – from large online surveys through to very costly consultant conducted campaigns – are impacted by having low response rates in comparison to the pool of people surveyed. The Committee notes and was pleased by the very high response rate for written feedback relative to the number of community members attending sessions which was in itself a pleasing result for a small committee of volunteers.

Consultation is not rocket science, but to be effective it does require a strong commitment to listening. It requires both a willingness and the discipline to set aside or “park” your own views on the subject matter and be willing to hear the views of others. I believe that the Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee has listened effectively, and I am pleased to hereby present our findings after the various discussions and feedback from over 500 community members – adding to the wider voices already heard as a part of this journey.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Millar MP

Chair – Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee

Introduction to the Committee Members

Amanda Millar MP



Amanda Millar MP is a Member of the Legislative Council for Northern Victoria. Prior to entering Parliament in August 2013, Amanda worked as a human resources and industrial relations manager and consultant for over 25 years in the higher education and commercial sectors. Amanda resides in the Macedon Ranges.

Catherine Borazio



Catherine Borazio is a Sunbury resident with more than seven years' experience in local government, particularly in the Economic Development field. Catherine is currently completing her Masters in Urban Planning and has a strong interest in ensuring that Sunbury residents are given the opportunity to have a say about the future of their community.

Susan Duncan



Susan Duncan is a member of the Bulla Cemetery Trust and Past President of the Lions Club of Sunbury. Susan has worked in both the horticulture and hospitality industries, including 5 years at Melbourne Airport. Susan has lived in Sunbury and Diggers Rest, where she currently resides, all her life, and has a keen interest in the history of the area.

John Hennessy



John Hennessy is a Sunbury resident who has been a contractor to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) for several years, working in the strategic planning area for the local government sector. Prior to this, John worked as the Corporate Planning Manager for both Toyota Australia and the Australian Football League.

Elizabeth Kosanovic



Elizabeth Kosanovic is the current President of the Broadmeadows Progress Association (BPA), and is also a 2014 participant of the Hume Environmental Champions programme. Elizabeth's working life spanned 1956-2001 – during which period she worked in the fashion industry and then commenced a teaching career between 1989- 2001, following completion of a Diploma of Teaching. Elizabeth taught TAFE Certificate and Diploma Courses in Fashion and Design. Since retirement, Elizabeth has travelled, and pursued various interests. The past ten years have presented Elizabeth with many challenges for the BPA committee in relation to community issues. This period since retirement has been a steep learning curve for Elizabeth, both as a senior citizen and a pensioner. Elizabeth finds life challenging, and strongly believes that education is a lifelong affair.

Phil Lithgow



Phil Lithgow, President of the Sunbury Football Club, former business owner in Evans Street for eleven years. Phil is a Sunbury resident, married to Cate, with three grown children and two grandchildren, all of whom reside in Sunbury.

Peter Ralph



Peter Ralph has been a Sunbury resident and business owner for over 30 years. Peter has served on the Sunbury Chamber of Commerce Committee for many years and has acted as the Sunbury Village Traders coordinator for four years. Peter also served on the board of the Sunbury Community Health Centre for two years. As a business owner, Peter is not aligned with any one local service group, but has been involved in many fund raising events in Sunbury over an extensive period.

Phillip Ripper



Phillip Ripper has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Sunbury Community Health Centre since 2010. Phillip's has experience in community engagement, social and health policy, community development, partnership development and high quality community service provision spanning than 25 years. Phillip holds qualifications in Behavioural Science and a Master of Business Administration and is currently a Director of the Macedon Ranges and North Western Melbourne Medicare Local and executive member of the Hume-Whittlesea Primary Care Partnership.

Lawrence Seyers



Lawrence Seyers is the vice president of Sunbury Residents Association, 2011 Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association "Young Professional" award recipient. He has lived in Sunbury since 2005 and in 2009 completed a 60,000 word Masters of Business research thesis titled "Understanding Outer-Urban Governance: A case study of local government administration in Melbourne's north-west" available at <http://vuir.vu.edu.au/15495/>

Terms of Reference

Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee - Terms of Reference

1. The Committee will undertake wide community consultation on the proposed separation of Sunbury from Hume and establishment of a new municipality, including with reference to the following:
 - a. proposed boundaries for a new Shire of Sunbury and restructured Hume City Council
 - b. communities of interest
 - c. Appropriate and equitable division and distribution of assets and liabilities between a new Shire of Sunbury and restructured Hume City Council
 - d. Transitional requirements associated with establishing a new Shire of Sunbury
 - e. Ward boundaries and number of councillors required in a new Shire of Sunbury and restructured Hume City Council
2. The Committee will determine the type and manner of community consultation to be undertaken.
3. The Committee will provide recommendations to the Local Government Panel (Sunbury out of Hume City Council) Review Panel on issues identified by the community that the Committee believe should be investigated and considered (the Panel's Terms of Reference require it to review and make recommendations to the Minister on all issues referred to it by the Committee).
4. The Committee's recommendations must be relevant to the Panel's Terms of Reference.
5. The Committee's recommendations must be provided to the Panel by 30 April 2014, together with a list of all persons and organisations consulted.
6. The Committee will advise the Minister for Local Government of its recommendations to the Panel and provide a list of all persons and organisations consulted, by 30 April 2014.

Background

Calls from the community for Sunbury to form a separate shire have continued for more than two decades. At the nine sessions our committee conducted and in the responses received, many community members reflected upon the long history of the Sunbury out of Hume issue which has led to this point. This is acknowledged and noted by the committee, but is not within the scope of the committee's terms of reference and will not otherwise be fully documented within this report.

In response to these calls and as part of its election commitments during the 2010 State election, the Coalition Government committed to conduct a poll on whether to establish a separate Sunbury shire. Ahead of the poll, the State Government commissioned and released an independent report prepared by KPMG detailing the potential financial implications of separating Sunbury from Hume to create a new Sunbury shire. The KPMG report entitled *Impact of Potential Secession of Sunbury from Hume* was released by the Minister on 31 July 2013. The KPMG report is available at: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/localgovernment/projects-and-programs/sunbury-shire-council-project>

In October 2013 the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) conducted a voluntary poll by postal ballot of all eligible Hume City Council ratepayers (including business owners) and residents. The outcome of this poll was a 61% vote in favour of establishing a separate shire based on a 51% voluntary turnout of eligible voters. The results of this poll as published by the VEC are available in Appendix 1.

Following the outcome of this poll, the Minister for Local Government, the Hon. Jeanette Powell, announced the appointment of a Local Government Panel in January 2014 to provide expert advice on the most effective way to achieve the successful separation of Sunbury from the City of Hume. The membership of the three person Local Government Panel includes:

- **Brian Haratsis** (Panel Chair) is an economist and strategist with over 30 years of experience as an adviser to governments and major corporate clients throughout Australia. He has a particular focus on economic forecasting as it relates to private sector property development, understanding communities, tourism and social trends.
- **Kelvin Spiller** was recently Acting Chief Executive Officer with the Wangaratta Rural City Council and has around 35 years of experience in local government in Victoria and Queensland. He has specific skills in amalgamation and restructuring of local governments, including planning and managing transitions.
- **Maxine Cooper** has considerable experience in social research, community development and planning in a range of organisations in both the private and public sectors. She is currently a Sessional Member of Planning Panels Victoria.

The Local Government Panel, which has separate Terms of Reference from the Committee (see Appendix 5), is required to report to the Minister for Local Government by 30 June 2014. The panel will investigate new municipal boundaries and transition arrangements including the distribution of assets, delivery of municipal services while having regard to the economic sustainability of the two restructured councils.

The Local Government Panel will work closely with the Sunbury Community Consultative Committee to ensure widespread community input into forming a new Sunbury shire.

At the time of the appointment of the Local Government Panel on 17 February 2014, Minister Powell also announced the formation of the Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative

Committee (CCC) and called for expressions of interest from community members to join an eight person committee to be chaired by Mrs Amanda Millar, Member of the Legislative Council for Northern Victoria. Expressions of interest were required to be lodged by 17 February 2014.

Over 40 expressions of interest were received and on 14 March 2014, Minister Powell announced the committee membership as follows:

- **Amanda Millar** (Committee Chair) – Member of the Legislative Council for Northern Victoria;
- **Catherine Borazio** – extensive local government and industry experience, currently completing masters in urban planning and development;
- **Susan Duncan** – former president of Lions Club of Sunbury, member of Bulla Cemetery Trust;
- **John Hennessy** – strategic planning consultant with experience in strategic local government directions;
- **Elizabeth (Betty) Kosanovic** – president Broadmeadows Progress Association;
- **Phillip Lithgow** – president of Sunbury Football Club, former local business owner;
- **Peter Ralph** – local business owner and past member Sunbury Chamber of Commerce, Sunbury Village Traders and Sunbury Community Health Centre Board;
- **Phillip Ripper** – chief executive officer of Sunbury Community Health Centre, extensive experience in public policy including health and service development and community engagement; and
- **Lawrence Seyers** – vice president of Sunbury Residents Association, 2011 Victorian Planning and Environmental Law Association ‘Young Professional’ award recipient.

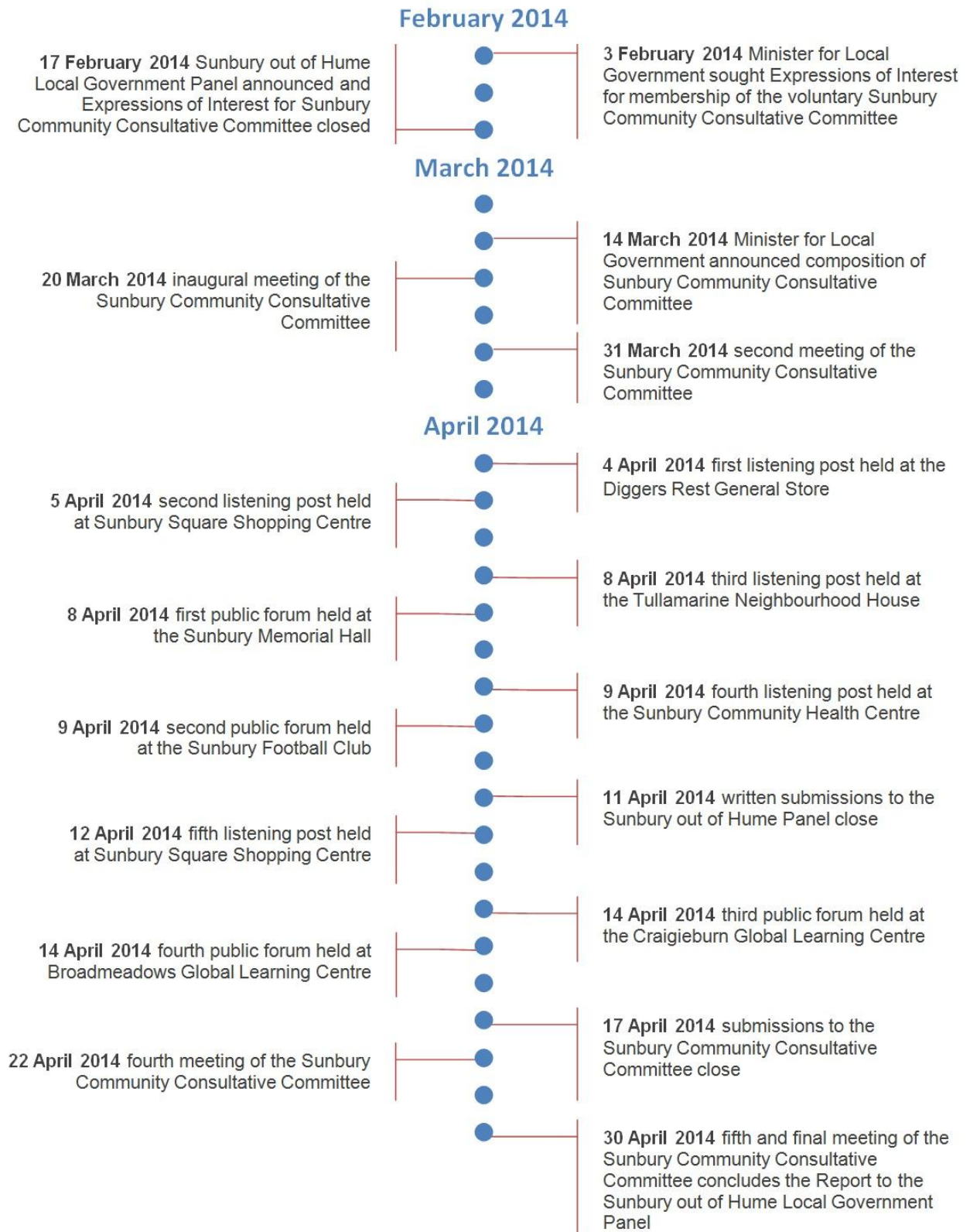
In appointing the committee, consideration was given to ensuring that the overall committee composition reflected:

- gender balance (being four females and five males);
- a range of age demographics (with representation from students through to retirees);
- variation in residential locations (including members from Sunbury, Diggers Rest, Broadmeadows, Macedon Ranges and other); and that
- each member possessed relevant expertise and/or community engagement experience.

The Terms of Reference for the Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee are listed separately on page 7.

The Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee was appointed to undertake wide community consultation on the proposed separation of Sunbury from Hume and establishment of a new municipality in accordance with its terms of reference. The Committee’s recommendations are required to be relevant to the Terms of Reference and must be provided to the Local Government Panel by 30 April 2014, together with a list of all persons and organisations consulted. The Committee will also advise the Minister for Local Government of its recommendations and provide a list of all persons and organisations consulted by 30 April 2014.

Timeline



Methodology

The Sunbury out of Hume Community Consultative Committee first convened on 20 March 2014 to determine the process for community consultation. This was to supplement the previously advertised calls for written submissions to the Local Government Panel (See Appendix 2).

The Committee provided a range of formats for public sessions to ensure greater engagement with the community. It was determined that nine sessions would be split between “listening posts” as well as public forums. Listening posts provide opportunity for community members to “drop in” to a public venue and to speak one-on-one with a committee member. This varies from the more traditional public forums being a “town hall” style format where community members are required to stay for the duration of the session and to listen to the input of everyone attending on the day.

A total of nine sessions, including five listening posts and four public forums, were arranged at locations (including shopping centres and general stores, libraries, sporting clubs and council offices) across Hume City Council over the two week consultation period conducted during April 2014. Sessions were arranged across weekdays, evenings and weekends, and no venues were repeated across the nine sessions. Consultation sessions included:

Listening posts

Date & Time	Venue	Committee Members
4 April, 4pm - 5pm	Diggers Rest General Store	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Amanda Millar (Chair)· Susan Duncan· Phillip Ripper· Lawrence Seyers
5 April, 9am – 12pm	Sunbury Square Shopping Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Amanda Millar (Chair)· Catherine Borazio· John Hennessy· Betty Kosanovic· Peter Ralph· Lawrence Seyers
8 April, 10am - 11am	Tullamarine Neighbourhood House	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Amanda Millar (Chair)· Peter Ralph· Betty Kosanovic· Phillip Ripper
9 April, 1pm – 3pm	Sunbury Community Health Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Amanda Millar (Chair)· Betty Kosanovic· Phillip Ripper· Lawrence Seyers
12 April, 9am – 12pm	Hume City Council - Sunbury Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Catherine Borazio· Susan Duncan· Lawrence Seyers· John Hennessy

Table 1: Table of Listening Posts

Public forums

Date & Time	Venue	Committee Members
8 April, 2pm - 4pm	Sunbury Memorial Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amanda Millar (Chair) · Susan Duncan · Peter Ralph · Phillip Ripper · Lawrence Seyers
9 April, 7pm – 9pm	Sunbury Football Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amanda Millar (Chair) · Susan Duncan · John Hennessy · Phillip Lithgow · Peter Ralph · Phillip Ripper · Lawrence Seyers
14 April, 10am – 12 noon	Hume Global Learning Centre - Craigieburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amanda Millar (Chair) · Betty Kosanovic · Lawrence Seyers
14 April, 2pm – 4pm	Hume Global Learning Centre - Broadmeadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amanda Millar (Chair) · Susan Duncan · Betty Kosanovic · Lawrence Seyers

Table 2: Table of Public Forums

Single page flyers (see Appendix 3) advertising the various sessions were provided to local media including the print media and local community radio, and were also distributed by committee members on local notice boards, in sporting clubs, at railway stations, in shop windows, at general stores and via social media across a range of community webpages and websites. Local newspapers were contacted and indicated a willingness to advertise the sessions as a community service. Two local radio interviews were conducted with committee members during the course of the community consultation process with an aim of publicising forthcoming public consultation sessions.

The Committee also produced a double-sided A3-sized feedback form entitled “It’s Your Move” (see Appendix 4). Photocopied onto specially ordered yellow paper which is not readily available to the public, these forms were designed to be quick to complete and to have a “user-friendly” look and feel to maximise ease of completion and public engagement – in comparison with completion of a full written submission. Each box on the feedback form related directly to the Committee’s Terms of Reference.¹ The form also included a map to enable community members to draw suggested boundaries for a new shire including Sunbury or alternatively to describe this in the text box provided. A free text space was also provided for “Any other comments”.

¹ One of the Committee’s original terms of reference, being “1e) Ward boundaries and number of councillors required in a new Shire of Sunbury and restructured Hume City Council”, was regarded as problematic to be usefully consulted upon until such time as the potential boundaries was determined. This question was therefore not put as part of the community consultation process conducted by this Committee.

The feedback forms were distributed at both listening posts and public forums. Members of the public were advised that they could use this feedback form or alternatively submit their written feedback by either post, email or at any of the public sessions. Feedback could be verbal or written, but to be valid, names and addresses were required to be provided as well as ticking and signing a disclaimer that only one submission per person had been completed throughout the consultation period.

Consultation Statistics

Attendance details were not formally recorded at the consultation sessions due to the difficulty in measuring exact numbers in a listening post context. However, approximate attendance numbers and the number of feedback forms distributed at each session were estimated as follows:

Listening Posts

Date & Time	Venue	Approx. Attendance
4 April 4pm - 5pm	Diggers Rest General Store	30 - 40
5 April 9am – 12pm	Sunbury Square Shopping Centre	250 - 300
8 April 10am - 11am	Tullamarine Neighbourhood House	30 - 40
9 April 1pm – 3pm	Sunbury Community Health Centre	15 - 20
12 April 9am – 12pm	Hume City Council Sunbury Office	7 - 10

Table 3: Consultation Statistics for Listening Posts

Public Forums

Date & Time	Venue	Approx. Attendance
8 April 2pm - 4pm	Sunbury Memorial Hall	50 - 60
9 April 7pm – 9pm	Sunbury Football Club	40 - 45
14 April 10am – 12 noon	Hume Global Learning Centre - Craigieburn	30 - 35
14 April 2pm – 4pm	Hume Global Learning Centre - Broadmeadows	25 - 30

Table 4: Consultation Statistics for Public Forums

Based on these figures, a “conservative” total estimate of attendance across the nine sessions is 477 - 580 people over the two week consultation period.

All community members attending a consultation session were provided with and encouraged to complete a feedback form or to provide other form of written input.

As at the end of the consultation period, a total of 124 feedback forms and/or written response/emails were received by the Committee. This represents a written response rate in the range of 21 - 24% of those attending the public sessions. This total is separate and additional to the written submissions received by the Local Government Panel over the same period which were not considered by the Committee in producing this report.

In terms of the geographical distribution of responses the results by suburb were as follows:

Suburb	No of Written Responses	% of Responses
Broadmeadows and surrounding areas (Gladstone Park 5, Coolaroo 2, Jacana 1, Westmeadows 2)	10	8%
Craigieburn	5	4%
Diggers Rest	8	6%
Sunbury	79	64%
Tullamarine	22	18%
Total	124	100%

Table 5: Distribution of Written Feedback by Suburb

This represents an overall response rate of 64% from within Sunbury and a 36% response from other parts of Hume City Council (see Figure 1). This response rate was potentially driven by the name of the process which expressly referred to Sunbury – but which did not as directly impact other parts of Hume.

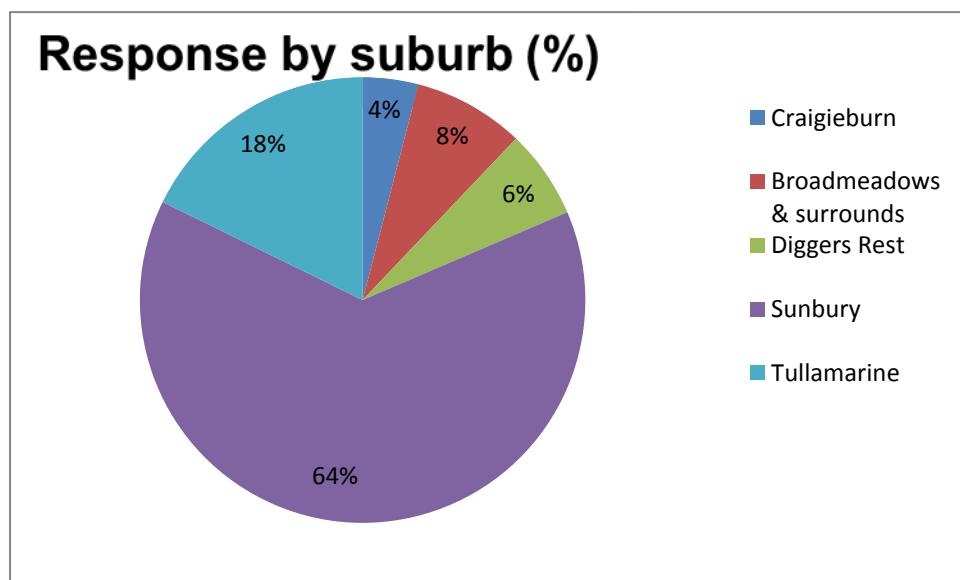


Figure 1: Response by suburb (%)

Diggers Rest residents included both those living in the Hume City Council and those living in Melton City Council (who did not have the opportunity to participate in the voluntary poll of October 2013). The Committee was of the view that the relatively low response rate of Diggers Rest residents indicated that no significant substantive conclusions were able to be drawn from those parts of Diggers Rest falling outside of current Hume City Council boundaries. Residents within Hume City Council have already been afforded the opportunity to participate both in the voluntary poll of October 2013 and to engage in this community consultation process – thereby presenting a number of opportunities to have a say in relation to this issue which had not been canvassed with the residents of Melton City Council prior to this current process.

It is noted that there were no written responses received from Bulla residents – although Committee members have noted that a small number of Bulla residents attended the public consultation sessions. The Committee notes that a stronger representation of voices from the Bulla community would have added significantly to the depth of the Committee's findings in this report.

Chapter 1: Boundaries

From the outset, the Committee's view was that the issue of boundaries would be the most contentious issue to be canvassed and would occupy the most significant share of the community's interest. This did prove to be the case with the largest number of responses (111 responses – being 91%) being received on this terms of reference, being proposed boundaries for a new Shire of Sunbury and a restructured Hume City Council.

Possible boundaries contemplated broadly fell into six key categories including:

1. As per the electorate boundaries for the **new State seat of Sunbury** (See electorate map in Appendix 6 which includes Sunbury, Diggers Rest, Melbourne Airport and sections of Tullamarine);
2. **Deep Creek** as the eastern boundary of a new municipality including Sunbury;
3. **Former Shire of Bulla** boundaries (which included Tullamarine and shared the Airport with other former municipalities)(see Appendix 7);
4. **Sunbury and Bulla only**;
5. Possibility of Sunbury **transferring into another existing shire** such as Macedon Ranges or Melton City Council; and
6. Sunbury to remain within Hume City Council ("**Do not proceed**").

In accordance with these broad categories, the responses are summarised as follows:

Category No.	Category Title	No of Responses	% of Responses
1.	New State Seat of Sunbury	45	41%
2.	Deep Creek	16	14%
3.	Former Shire of Bulla	7	5%
4.	Sunbury & Bulla Only	26	23%
5.	Sunbury to transfer to another existing shire	2	2%
6.	Do not proceed	11	11%
7.	Other	4	4%
Total*		111	100%

Table 6: Boundary Responses by Category (By Number and Percentage)

* A total of 13 respondents (being 10%) did not submit a response to this question.

Table 6 and Figure 2 indicate that 45% (or close to half of the respondents on this issue had a preference for boundaries which aligned to those of the new State seat of Sunbury (which includes Melbourne airport). This category is also close in concept to those who expressed a preference for the boundaries of the old Shire of Bulla – being 7 responses or 6% - which included a share of Melbourne Airport.

The next strongest response was for Sunbury and Bulla only to be included in a new municipality (26 responses or 23%). These responses were evenly distributed between Sunbury residents (14 responses) and residents from other parts of Hume City Council (12 responses). It should be noted that some of those respondents indicating a preference for Sunbury and Bulla only as the preferred boundary also included Diggers Rest within this preference. However, as a relatively

small number of responses were received from Diggers Rest and these were split between Hume City Council and Melton City Council residents (who did not participate in the October 2013 voluntary poll) – the Committee excluded consideration of the inclusion of the non-Hume City Council sections of Diggers Rest from its review (see “Consultation Statistics” on p. 15).

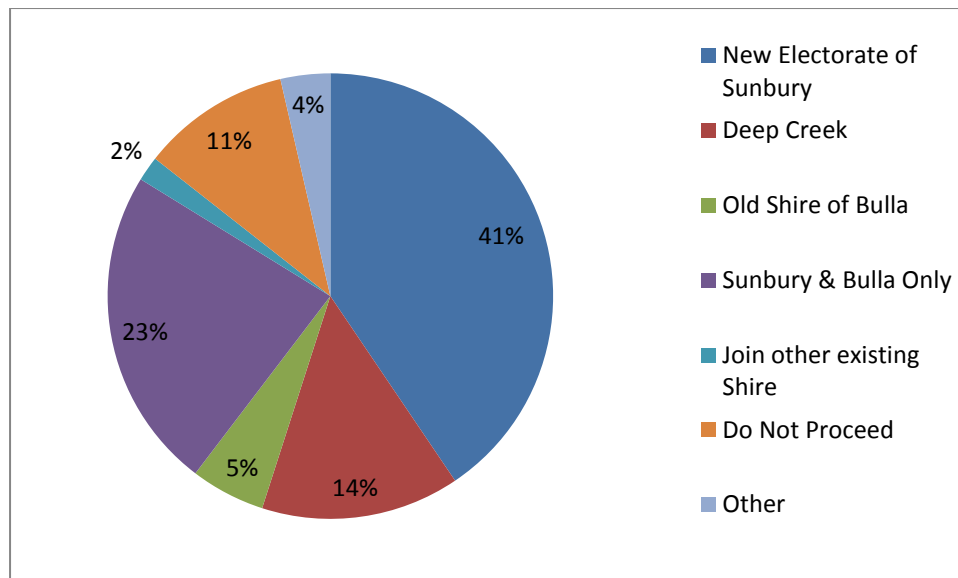


Figure 2: Total boundaries responses by category (%)

In this context, it is important to note that 11% of respondents did indicate a desire to not proceed with Sunbury out of Hume (i.e. for Sunbury to continue to be included within Hume City Council). It is also notable that these respondents were predominantly Sunbury residents.

Overall the views in respect to boundaries were largely determined by the respondent's residential location. That is, a clear majority of respondents living in Sunbury believed that a new municipality should comprise Sunbury plus Bulla plus Melbourne Airport. While those living in Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Tullamarine were consistently of the view that the boundaries should be limited to Sunbury, Bulla and in some instances the Hume section of Diggers Rest – but it was strongly felt by these respondents that Melbourne Airport should remain within the current boundaries of Hume City Council. The inclusion of Melbourne Airport (either moving into a new shire including Sunbury or to remain in Hume City Council) was consistently a dominant part of both the discussions at the public sessions and also of the written feedback. As noted below, responses on this issue were strongly indicated by reference to the respondents' residential locations.

To review this graphically by residential location, Figure 3 indicates the majority of responses (56%) from Sunbury residents supported the boundaries being as per the new State seat of Sunbury – with a further significant proportion (19%) preferring a boundary of Sunbury and Bulla only.

For the other Hume City Council residents (excluding Sunbury residents), a clear majority of respondents (see Figure 4) indicated a willingness for Sunbury to secede from Hume City Council but only on the basis that the airport remained with Hume City Council. The two most favoured boundary categories (both of which included Melbourne Airport remaining with Hume City Council)

were Deep Creek (44%) and Sunbury and Bulla only (33%) – being a combined total of 77% of these respondents.

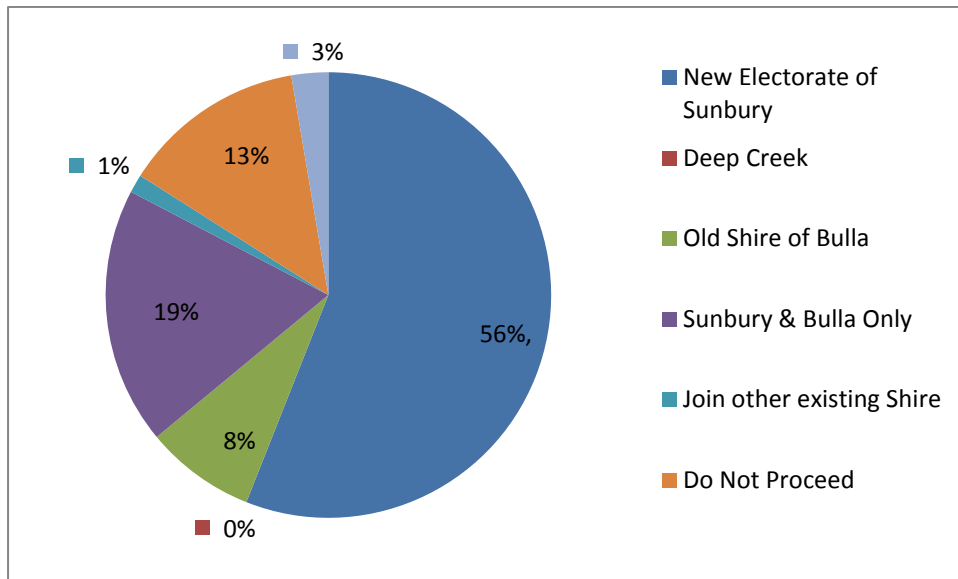


Figure 3: Boundaries responses of Sunbury residents only (%)

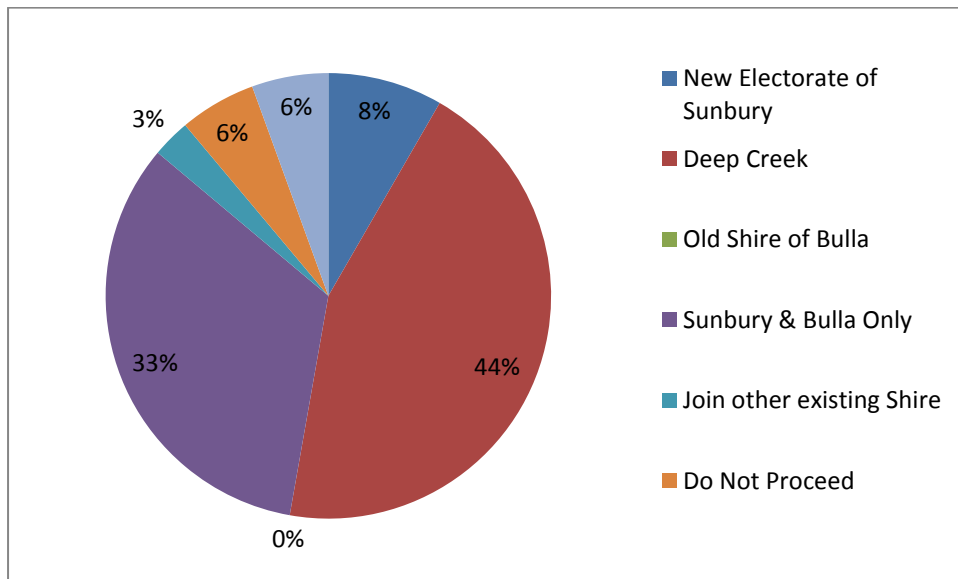


Figure 4: Boundaries responses of other Hume City Council residents (excluding Sunbury residents)(%)

During the course of the consultation process, a number of residents – largely at the Broadmeadows and Craigieburn public forums – raised the issue of the hypothetical boundaries (being defined as the “Deep Creek boundaries”) used in the KPMG Report being the final boundary which should apply if proceeding to form a new municipality. In considering this input, it is important to note that the KPMG report specifically states that the hypothetical boundaries which were used as an underlying assumption for their modelling were hypothetical only and that, “...the

actual boundary between the two proposed entities (the hypothetical Sunbury and HWS municipalities) would be the subject of the deliberations of a Local Government Panel.”² The Committee is of the view that this context is important to note and that, while the views of these community members in preferring a Deep Creek boundary are specifically noted, the use of Deep Creek by KPMG as a hypothetical boundary in their report does not and was specifically not intended to play any part in the further determination of boundaries for a new municipality. While it is valid for community members to express a preference for Deep Creek as the boundary, it is not the case that KPMG recommended this to be the final boundary. Where written submissions have referred to “per the KPMG report”, this has been included with the “Deep Creek” statistics.

Overall, on proposed boundaries for a new Shire of Sunbury and restructured Hume City Council, a decisive number of respondents to this consultation process (89%) indicated a willingness to proceed³ with the most strongly supported boundary category to be following the boundaries of the new State seat of Sunbury (41%). It is, however, specifically noted that boundary preferences were strongly indicated by residential location – with the other Hume City Council respondents (excluding Sunbury residents) expressing an equally clear preference for Melbourne Airport to remain in Hume City Council.

² KPMG, “Impact of possible secession of Sunbury from Hume”, July 2013, p. 2.

³ Of those indicating a willingness to proceed, it is noted that a significant proportion (23.5%) of respondents did raise concerns that it was important that both municipalities could be shown to be economically viable in the future and/or that there would be no significant rate increases for either shire due to cost of living pressures. This has been specifically noted by the Committee in its overall findings.

Boundaries – Community Comments

“The latest state electoral division on the VEC website seems to be exactly what is needed.”
(Sunbury resident)

“I’m happy to go back to the old boundaries of Bulla.” (Sunbury resident)

“Eastern boundary of Hume on the woodlands side of Bulla would be my preference.”
(Sunbury resident)

“Tullamarine and the airport are not negotiable; they should not go into the Sunbury boundary. We live with the noise pollutions and negative impacts from the airport, the locals around the airport should have a positive impact.” (Tullamarine resident)

“It needs to be as big as possible for we need as many rate payers as possible to share the burden of what are going to be very expensive rates due to duplication of infrastructure.”
(Sunbury resident)

“It is crucial that the airport is included with Sunbury. Sunbury does not have the business revenue and ‘big ticket revenue’ earners and that is why Sunbury needs a share of the airport in the boundaries.” (Diggers Rest resident)

“The existing boundaries of Hume Council are satisfactory and should remain.” (Craigieburn resident)

“Mickleham Road should be the boundary.” (Sunbury resident)

“Deep Creek is the best option for the rest of Hume City Council. Craigieburn should not lose out.” (Craigieburn resident)

“We feel that Diggers Rest should be part of Sunbury because of its proximity to the township of Sunbury.” (Sunbury resident)

“Keep Sunbury and Bulla together.” (Sunbury resident)

“Tullamarine and the airport are not negotiable; they should not go into the Sunbury boundary. We live with the noise pollutions and negative impacts from the airport, the locals around the airport should have a positive impact.” (Tullamarine resident)

Chapter 2: Communities of Interest

Of all of the terms of reference, this one which was the most challenging to precisely define, but it was also the question which did engender the most insightful and innovative contributions from the community – in particular at the public forum sessions. Responses received to this question were very diverse, but a number of key themes did emerge.

On the “It’s your move” feedback form, this term of reference was included as, “How would you best describe the community you want in the future?”

In respect to the responses from Sunbury residents, it is clear that residents are immensely proud of both the heritage (dating back to 1835) and the future of their town and their community, and that they feel a deep connection with Sunbury. This theme was strongly and consistently communicated throughout all of the public sessions and in the written feedback. The importance of the connection with regional Victoria was emphasised by respondents who likewise acknowledge that while Sunbury is on the outskirts of more suburban Greater Melbourne, it is this connection with regional areas which characterises the town of Sunbury. This was viewed as important and valued by residents.

For the Sunbury respondents, other key themes arising in respect to how they viewed their community included:

- Retaining a significant regional or “country” status and connection (“city living with country style”);
- A growing area for families;
- An “all inclusive” community where everyone is heard and everyone works for the good of the community (“socially minded”);
- Better local government service delivery;
- Like the community we have now;
- Sustainable and a clean environment;
- A shire which is responsive to community needs;
- Affordable for all residents and economically viable;
- A safer community with good security systems and a visible police presence;
- Quality infrastructure including improved roads, transport, parking;
- A community with industry and employment opportunities;
- A need for well managed development to enable growth for Sunbury;
- More open spaces, parks and bike tracks;
- Not a suburb but a town with a definite identity; and
- A connected community.

For respondents in other parts of the City of Hume, fewer respondents completed this question, but from the responses received a number of key themes also emerged and these included:

Tullamarine respondents raised:

- Maintaining current services – especially the libraries, leisure services and community health;
- A friendly neighbourhood;
- Fairer services for all ages;
- A community not split by distance;
- Accessible and appropriate services;
- A proactive and harmonious community;
- A Sunbury Free Hume.

For Broadmeadows & surrounds, Craigieburn and Gladstone Park, key responses included:

- More employment, local employment and no job losses;
- Reasonable rates and good services (already good services);
- Keep Hume the same, but let Sunbury go off on its own;
- Inclusive, open and honest community;
- Economically, socially and environmentally sustainable;
- Socially cohesive and supported by appropriate social infrastructure and programmes.

No responses to this question were received from the Diggers Rest written feedback.

Overall the responses to this term of reference provide some clear messages about the things valued by local residents now and into the future. The communities in which the Committee's various activities and sessions were conducted all expressed a significant degree of pride and enjoyment about being a part of their current community.

Communities of Interest – Community Comments

“Agricultural and supportive community e.g. where there are medical problems everyone supports and cares for each other.” (Sunbury resident)

“There are enormous opportunities to attract new businesses to Sunbury. Sunbury needs some great business leaders to be innovative and viable. The Mayor, council and business leaders need to work together to put these types of ideas forward.” (Sunbury resident)

“We need a more cohesive community; the Sunbury community does not seem to want to come into the Hume community, past Deep Creek.” (Craigieburn resident)

“Progressive, equitable and affordable.” (Sunbury resident)

“We need Sunbury to have a sense of belonging and for our children to feel as if they would like to stay.” (Sunbury resident)

“I never come to Broadmeadows – petrol costs too much to come here.” (Sunbury resident)

“Fearful of rates continuing to increase. Rates should be proportional to income and not land value. Work closer with Sunbury so there is less alienation.” (Craigieburn resident)

“The tourism industry needs to be developed; we have the closest winery to Melbourne, the birth of the Ashes and the Living Legends.” (Sunbury resident)

“We need some more development, like what has been done in Craigieburn, which is important for families.” (Sunbury resident)

“The community (needs) to be able to influence what happens in their local area e.g. Tullamarine Airport out of Hume. Our voice needs to be heard on the transport and traffic caused by the airport.” (Gladstone Park resident)

“I am concerned about the distance to travel for services [if required to travel to Sunbury] e.g. community health, petrol costs.” (Tullamarine resident)

“We lost our leaders previously; we need the leadership back again.” (Sunbury resident)

“As a Craigieburn youth worker Sunbury needs more services in the youth area.” (Craigieburn resident)

“What do we have in common? We have three Sunbury councillors now who don’t respond to phone calls now.” (Tullamarine resident)

“The ‘satellite city’ type of arrangement needs to come back so we can consider the infrastructure required for families e.g. TAFE so people do not have to travel.” (Sunbury resident)

“The rates issue should be examined from the ground up, what is available to spend? There is a perception that Hume has neglected Sunbury, the rates need to be spent on actually building the Sunbury community.” (Sunbury resident)

Chapter 3: Assets & Liabilities

The terms of reference called upon the committee to consult on the appropriate and equitable division and distribution of assets and liabilities between a new Shire of Sunbury and a restructured Hume City Council.

The concept of “appropriate and equitable” was seen by all parts of the community as being of much importance, and there was also significant support that this issue in particular needed to rely heavily on the expert advice of the Local Government Panel and/or a professional accountancy firm – having both sufficient independence and access to financial reporting and asset registers to ensure that the task is undertaken both fairly and skilfully.

Community members did nevertheless have views on a number of key issues concerning assets and liabilities and these are noted below.

A key overall theme of the community consultation was an overriding concern that both shires, if proceeding, be economically viable without the need for substantial rate increases. This factor was also a key theme of the feedback and input received on this term of reference. That is, that the transfer of any assets and the transfer of any liabilities needed to provide for an economically viable future for both municipalities which includes having the ability to appropriately maintain council assets into the future.

There was a strong linkage also with the term of reference relating to transitional arrangements. As will be seen in Chapter 4, many of the community members who called for the appointment of commissioners (35% of written responses) – either to supplement the remainder of the term of the existing Hume City Council councillors or to assume interim responsibility – did so in the specific context of seeking the protection of assets in particular. There was therefore some common ground in the various discussions on both of these terms of reference.

The location of Melbourne Airport was raised by many community members as a part of this term of reference but as it is not currently an “asset” of Hume City Council, this feedback has been considered as part of Chapter 1 on boundaries.

In terms of detailed feedback concerning the appropriate and equitable division and distribution of assets and liabilities, the following key issues were raised:

For Sunbury residents:

- A theme of assets transferring as based on new boundaries;
- Racecourse Road land (or sale proceeds) to transfer to a new Sunbury municipality;
- All relevant Hume City Council land and buildings, specifically including the former Shire offices located in Sunbury;
- Use of the site on Jackson’s Hill was seen as very important by many community members;
- All former Shire of Bulla assets should be transferred into a new Sunbury municipality;
- Good local roads and footpaths;
- Social facilities and services;
- Good sporting facilities (including the aquatic centre) which are important for families;
- Parklands;
- Library and Community Hub, with a number noting a new library/global learning centre is a priority;
- Good health facilities including significant support for Sunbury Community Health;

- Split to include soft assets including IT software and intellectual property;
- Proportionate maintenance sites and equipment (including trucks);
- Tipping facilities;
- Transfer of (some) current Hume City Council staff officers – not proportionate but as assessed by the Local Government Panel to be required;
- An allocation for land sold off previously by Hume City Council;
- Split liabilities (including loans and superannuation) according to boundaries or population; and
- A number raised that a new Sunbury municipality should not be responsible for liabilities incurred by Hume City Council.

For Tullamarine residents:

There was strong support cited for local libraries – including the smaller local library as well as the larger Global Learning Centres in Broadmeadows and Craigieburn. Another key theme was access to local Community Health services (although it is noted that these are not current council assets) with residents noting that they would find travel to Sunbury for health services to be a major impediment. Other issues raised included:

- All assets within the new boundaries;
- Sunbury should have “their share” of the debts;
- Sunbury to “earn” their own assets through rates in the new shire; and
- Assets and liabilities as per the KPMG report.

For Broadmeadows & surrounds, Craigieburn and Gladstone Park residents, issues raised included:

- All assets within the new boundaries;
- Transfer to occur over an agreed time period;
- None/nil assets to transfer;
- Some joint facilities including landfill; and
- To be divided on a per capita basis or on what Sunbury brought to Hume.

Diggers Rest residents did not provide any written feedback on this term of reference.

Overall, community members were largely seeking a fair and equitable transfer of assets and liabilities to be guided by experts and there was a strong emphasis from all community members that this must be achieved within a framework which is economically viable for both municipalities without the need for significant rate increases.

Assets and Liabilities – Community Comments

"The assets belong to all of Hume. Services in Sunbury, all ratepayers have paid for this. Divide them as per population or as per KPMG report 80/20." (Broadmeadows resident)

"Should separation ultimately occur, any assets located within the boundaries of the different council areas should generally – unless special circumstances exist – be allocated to the particular council within whose area the particular assets reside." (Craigieburn resident)

"Those that exist within the boundaries" (Craigieburn resident)

"Should be split according to population, at an affordable rate, there should be no one off payments or higher rates" (Sunbury resident)

"I would have thought that this question would be better answered by experts – I am without any knowledge of what councils assets and liabilities are." (Sunbury resident)

"Most important is the facility at Melbourne Airport being incorporated into the new Sunbury Council area as it was prior to Hume takeover." (Sunbury resident)

"That's for the people to be affected to answer – just leave us were we are in Melton Shire!" (Diggers Rest resident)

"As per KPMG report" (Tullamarine resident)

"(I) do not think that Sunbury can go it alone, (but) should remain in Hume." (Tullamarine resident)

"Shire offices, council depot, Racecourse Rd etc. remain with Sunbury and include part of Melbourne Airport (4th runway)" (Sunbury resident)

"Assets should be frozen during transition period". (Sunbury resident)

"Must have the airport or can't afford to leave Hume" (Sunbury resident)

"Racecourse Road land sale should come to Sunbury" (Sunbury resident)

"Assets and machinery that existed before the amalgamation should come back to Sunbury. Staff who are currently engaged on maintenance (roads & parks) should be direct employees not contract staff." (Sunbury resident)

Chapter 4: Transitional Arrangements

The Committee also examined the term of reference on any transitional requirements associated with establishing a new Shire of Sunbury.

As noted in Chapter 3, some feedback in relation to transitional arrangements was made in the context of other terms of reference – most especially in relation to assets and liabilities.

Thirty five percent (26 of 75) provided a response on this issue called for the appointment of commissioners/administrators/other independent body to oversee the transition. This was also a consistently strong theme raised in the public forum and listening post sessions – in particular (but not exclusively) at the sessions conducted in Sunbury.

A number of other respondents used this section to indicate that they did not wish to “transition”. As discussed above (see Chapter 1: Boundaries), these responses were included as part of the overall total of 11% of respondents who indicated that they did not wish to see Sunbury exit from Hume City Council.

A strong theme was a desire for more information and consultation during any transition period. This was positively viewed by many respondents – both at the listening posts and public forums and in the written feedback received.

For Sunbury residents other key issues raised in respect to transitional arrangements included:

- “Incentivise” business development and expansion to the area through a reduction of rates;
- A discontinuation of services not deemed to be a priority;
- External contracting of services;
- Having a partnership with Hume City Council during the transition period to ensure smooth delivery of services;
- Assets should be frozen during transition period;
- Commissioners running tender processes which are not based solely on price;
- Staff from the former Bulla Shire to assist during the transition period;
- Services to the elderly and to youth to continue operating effectively during the transition period;
- Limit council costs;
- The strategists on the Panel will endeavour a smooth, equitable transition period;
- Use people who have common sense and don’t drag it out;
- Plan the new council to maximise shared services and collaboration with other councils;
- All current services should be maintained until a split occurs;
- Do it now – do not wait until 2016;
- Ongoing consultative committee with an avenue of appeal any interim decisions by Hume City Council;
- Keep any rate rises to a minimum;
- State Government to allocate (some) funding to assist with “start up” of a new municipality – potentially as an interest free loan.
- More consultation with ratepayers;

- More information being made available through local papers and also on a website; and
- Transparent processes for current Hume City Council employees.

For Tullamarine residents, issues raised included:

- Having an amnesty period of 12 months from the time of the official split during which Hume will support Sunbury.
- All current works for Sunbury should be renegotiated;
- Transition should be very gradual and done carefully;

For Broadmeadows & surrounds, Craigieburn and Gladstone Park residents, issues raised included:

- Some Hume City Council staff would need to transfer to Sunbury as Hume would need to reduce its staff;
- No doubt that Hume City Council would be required to provide services in an interim period;
- “Business as usual”;
- Let Sunbury “do their own thing”;
- Separate the community groups and become “co-ops”; joining together etc.;
- The new Shire of Sunbury should be run by administrators; and
- “Reverse engineering” of the process when Sunbury joined Hume.

Transitional Arrangements – Community Comments

"State Govt. should financially support if this action goes ahead. An administrator should be considered to be appointed until Sunbury has the infrastructure to appoint an elected council." (Tullamarine resident)

"I am not bothered about temporary disruptions to services over the transition period." (Sunbury resident)

"There cannot be people representing us who are harbouring negative thoughts or opinions of the transition." (Sunbury resident)

"My concern is the time it takes to develop the rate base, it will not happen in a few years." (Sunbury resident)

"How many councillors will there be and where will the council office be? What will happen to the employees at Hume?" (Sunbury resident)

"How will the services be allocated to council? The transition could be done by local services that are already established e.g. health centre services" (Sunbury resident)

"I imagine there will be several commissioners who will be employed to transition this process. We need the best people in their field to enable separation and plan for the future." (Sunbury resident)

"Services required by Sunbury but not located within Sunbury – Council Admin, Global Learning Centre etc, would need to be provided by Hume for a fixed period while the Shire recruited and set up offices." (Westmeadows resident)

"Neither Sunbury nor Hume residents should be disadvantaged by the process. All current services should be maintained until a split occurs" (Sunbury resident)

"Establish Sunbury offices and works depot first" (Sunbury resident)

"Information is key for rate payers. Set up a strong administration team first in an office in Sunbury (Central)". (Sunbury resident)

"As done previously when councils were combined – Commissioners were employed to deliver services, and this method has proved successful, I would expect this method to be followed." (Sunbury resident)

"Appoint an Administrator for three years, State Government to pay" (Dallas resident)

"Transparency is paramount... More consultation and meetings with the general public" (Sunbury resident)

Overview of the Listening Posts and Public Forums

Diggers Rest General Store (listening post) 4 April 4pm-5pm

At the listening post conducted at the Diggers Rest General Store on 4 April, there was an approximate turnout of 30 - 40 community members with most being local Diggers Rest residents, some Sunbury residents and one person each from Broadmeadows and Bulla. Four committee members attended this session. Key themes raised included that Diggers Rest is divided with most residents being in the Melton Shire Council boundaries and that these residents of Melton City Council are largely happy with the services provided to them via their current shire and have no desire to change this. Most Diggers Rest residents present reported that they largely shop in and spend time in Sunbury, but without necessarily seeing themselves as part of Sunbury. Other issues raised included concerns about Diggers Rest residents being currently split between two municipalities with varying service levels, and that those currently covered by Melton Shire Council would not like to see any transfer of their current council's assets into a new shire. Those residents currently covered by Hume had concerns road maintenance, litter and weed management issues were not being adequately addressed.

Susan Duncan

Sunbury Square Shopping Centre (listening post) 5 April 9am – 12pm

At the listening post conducted at the Sunbury Square Shopping Centre on Saturday April 5th, there was an interaction with more than 250 community members, with most being local Sunbury residents, as well as some Diggers Rest residents. Six committee members attended this session.

Key themes raised in discussions included the process involved with SOOH, with a number of people saying they were somewhat confused by the events to date, and the issue of the possible impact on rates with the advent of a separate council. In addition, there was significant discussion about the boundary issue and the resources that would be available to the new council. An estimated 300 forms were handed out on the morning.

John Hennessy



From left to right: Phillip Ripper, Amanda Millar, Susan Duncan and Lawrence Seyers at Diggers Rest General Store



From left to right: Peter Ralph, Elizabeth Kosanovic, Amanda Millar, Catherine Borazio and Lawrence Seyers at Sunbury Square Shopping Centre

Tullamarine Neighbourhood House (listening post) 8 April 10am - 11am

At the listening post conducted at the Tullamarine Neighbourhood House on 8 April, there was an approximate turnout of 30 community members with most being local Tullamarine residents, three committee members attended this session. Key themes raised included that Tullamarine residents did not want to be in the new Sunbury Council at any cost. Most people did not like the fact that they are now in the Jackson ward and assumed that meant they would automatically be included in the new Sunbury Council. The border issue was simple to them. The airport is to remain in the City of Hume. After a few discussions it seemed most residents were happy to see Sunbury leave as long as they don't take the airport. Some residents would consider a revenue split from the Airport but no one thought the idea of Tullamarine residents being with Sunbury was a good idea. The Residents also complained about the lack of information about the past process, they were happy that we took the time to give them a say in our process.

Peter Ralph



Peter Ralph, Phillip Ripper, Amanda Millar and Elizabeth Kosanovic at Tullamarine Neighbourhood House

Sunbury Memorial Hall (Public Forum) 8 April 2pm – 4pm

The first public forum was held at Sunbury Memorial Hall. In attendance were four Community Consultative Committee Members (Peter Ralph, Phillip Ripper, Susan Duncan, Lawrence Seyers) and Committee Chair Amanda Millar. Dignitaries included Minister for Local Government Hon. Tim Bull MP, Member for Western Metropolitan Region Mr Andrew Elsbury and Hume City Councillor Ann Potter. Approximately 100 attended with a mix of Hume residents in attendance, predominately older residents. Key themes from this forum included a strong support for Sunbury to be separate, but to provide certainty during the change through the appointment of Commissioners. Some reported that Diggers Rest should be included with Sunbury, and Melbourne Airport has always been with Sunbury, and is known as an 'airport town'. A strong message was received to keep rates low. Other themes included the rural 'green belt' appeal of Sunbury and the lack of an industry rate base like the rest of Hume. Concern was expressed at the loss of local leaders following amalgamation and residents never had a choice when Hume City was created. The audience cheered at the comment that Victoria University Sunbury campus has been terribly neglected by many governments and a Sunbury Council should utilise this facility.

Lawrence Seyers



Members of the Committee with Hon. Tim Bull MLA Minister for Local Government at the Public Forum held at Sunbury Memorial Hall

Sunbury Community Health Centre (listening post) 9 April 1pm-3pm

Located in the foyer of Sunbury Community Health Centre, this listening post attracted a number of participants who specifically attended to 'have their say' as well as providing an opportunity for Community Consultative Committee members to engage directly with Centre staff and the broader community who were visiting the Centre for health and welfare services.

'It's Your Move' feedback forms were distributed to those attending. CCC members were available to hear directly from participants. The majority of people expressed significant concerns for pensioners and families with mortgages if rates were to rise as projected in the KPMG report.

Most people felt that Sunbury had a strong sense of community and independent identity and this was not always shared with other parts of Hume. It was broadly felt that a separate Shire containing Sunbury could better understand and reflect the nature, character and aspirations of the local community; however, this should not come at the cost of higher rates. At least one participant's desire for a new Shire appeared to be driven by dissatisfaction with the performance of the current Hume City Council.

Phillip Ripper

Sunbury Football Club – Clarke Oval (public forum) 9 April 7pm – 9pm

Just over 40 residents braved a cold and very wet Sunbury evening to attend the public forum held at the Sunbury Football Club rooms. 8 Committee members attended this forum along with Panel member Maxine Cooper.

A number of consistent issues were raised at this forum and several of the attendees confirmed that they had also been present at other forums and listening posts, but were keen to hear what others had to say.

Several people discussed the split of assets with most agreeing they should go with whichever way the boundaries fall. The Racecourse Road land and the old Victoria University site were raised as of particular interest and benefit to the Sunbury community. There was a very strong feeling to retain the Melbourne Airport in a new Sunbury Shire.

Concern for Hume Council staff during this process was raised with a question that asked how they had been consulted and informed during what the speaker thought would be trying times for them.

(Continues next page)



From left to right: Lawrence Seyers, Phillip Ripper, Amanda Millar and Elizabeth Kosanovic at Sunbury Community Health



From left to right: Peter Ralph, Susan Duncan, Amanda Millar, Phi; Lithgow, Maxine Cooper (Panel Member), Phillip Ripper, John Hennessy, Elizabeth Kosanovic and Lawrence Seyers at Sunbury Football Club

Sunbury Football Club – Clarke Oval (public forum) 9 April 7pm – 9pm (Continued)

Overwhelmingly the attendees wanted Sunbury to retain a sense of community that they thought was missing by being aligned to Hume with lots of memories about what it was like under the old Bulla shire. With a consistent thread of wanting to ensure that Sunbury continued to grow and develop and that the community facilities continued to be developed to meet the future needs of the town, with concern over parks and garden maintenance.

Phil Lithgow

Hume City Council Sunbury Office (listening post) 12 April 9am – 12pm

On Saturday 12 April, a listening post was held at Hume City's Sunbury Office. There was an approximate turnout of seven community members from the Diggers Rest and Sunbury area and four committee members attended this session. Community members expressed concern that potential rate increases within a Sunbury Shire would have a significant impact on certain segments of the local community, many of whom are already struggling with rent and daily living expenses. They explained that Sunbury currently capitalises off funding directed at Hume City as an interface growth municipality with some of the highest unemployment rates in Australia (it was highlighted that Broadmeadows skews these figures to Sunbury's advantage). If a new Shire of Sunbury was set up, it would lose this advantage, and without recognition as a rural municipality it would also be unable to access many programs, services and resources which are only directed at regional areas, it would effectively become a small interface municipality. Diggers Rest residents highlighted that Diggers Rest had strong ties to Sunbury and lacked such ties with Melton City, and this was amplified by lack of public transport connecting the area to Melton City.

Catherine Borazio



From left to right: Lawrence Seyers, Susan Duncan, Elizabeth Kosanovic and Amanda Millar at the Hume Global Learning Centre, Broadmeadows



From left to right: Lawrence Seyers, Amanda Millar and Mike Cherriman at the 3NRG studio

Craigieburn Global Learning Centre (Public Forum) 14 April 10am – 12pm

Approximately 30 community members attended this public forum. The forum was notably different from the Committee's other events as it was a more "orchestrated" process with a green flyer (See Appendix 8) being distributed to community members (but not provided to Committee members) outside the room ahead of the forum. In the course of the forum, it became clear that community members were reading and quoting from the flyer and in some instances referred openly to the flyer. That said, in my view, the session did clearly convey that residents of Craigieburn in attendance are largely pleased with current services in Hume City Council and feel very strongly that the airport belongs with them. Community members present largely indicated a willingness to "let Sunbury go" but not to take Melbourne Airport into a new municipality. Many present reported that, when they voted "yes" in the voluntary poll, they felt this was only to let Sunbury secede (which they largely continue to support) but did not believe it would impact on any other part of Hume outside of the township of Sunbury – most notably on the airport. There were also concerns expressed about potential liabilities which may arise including staff superannuation liabilities under Hume's defined benefits scheme. After the meeting, a few community members came up to express disappointment at Facebook entries (including sighted copies from a Craigieburn residents association) discouraging attendance at these public forums expressing the view that "all decisions have already been made". These community members felt this was disappointing and may potentially have deterred attendance.

Amanda Millar MP

Broadmeadows Global Learning Centre (public forum) 14 April 2pm - 4 pm

This report has been collated from listening to the people attending the Forum, and notes taken on the day.

Approximately 23 members of the community attended this forum. They represented the following suburbs: Atwood, Broadmeadows, Coolaroo, Gladstone Park, Dallas, Tullamarine and Sunbury. People attending the forums were asked to state their name and suburb, when making a statement.

Although the forum was small in numbers, there were many questions asked and opinions expressed. The people attending seemed confused about the forms they were asked to fill in. There were questions about the lack of information available. Many stated that they voted with the understanding that the boundary proposed on the ballot papers (Deep Creek) was the actual boundary. They expressed the view that the whole process 'we are listening' was potentially deceiving. Some claimed that the hours allocated to listening posts and forums were heavily weighted towards the Sunbury population. Some claimed that the small advertisement in the local newspaper was too little, too late.

Others raised that the noise and air pollution from the nearby airport meant that they should retain the airport rates in Hume.

Concerns were raised about a need to travel to Sunbury for health services if Craigieburn were relocated into a new shire.

Most expressed the view that they were willing for Sunbury to leave Hume, but did not want to move into a new shire themselves or to lose the airport.

Elizabeth Kosanovic

Conclusions and Recommendations

In summarising the community feedback obtained during the consultation process, the Committee notes the following conclusions drawn from both verbal and written input to the Committee.

Community input has expressed that:

1. All communities are broadly supportive of the secession of Sunbury from Hume City Council conditional upon both councils being financially viable and rates not increasing significantly.
2. There is significant concern that new rates (in either shire) do not increase substantially due to current cost of living pressures.
3. Areas which indicated clear majority support to remain in Hume City Council included:
 - Craigieburn;
 - Broadmeadows and surrounding areas; and
 - Tullamarine.
4. The small number of Diggers Rest respondents currently within Melton City Council on the whole expressed the desire to remain within Melton City Council. These residents did not participate in the voluntary poll as they did not fall within the boundaries of the current Hume City Council. Therefore, any conclusions to change their current municipal coverage would, in the Committee's view, require a separate process of community consultation.
5. There was significant division over where Melbourne Airport should be located which was strongly indicated by residential location of respondents (i.e. Sunbury residents largely believed airport should transfer into a new shire including Sunbury, whereas Broadmeadows, Craigieburn and Tullamarine residents overwhelmingly wanted the airport to remain within Hume City Council).
6. Considerable support was shown for the appointment of commissioners in some form to protect assets and to equitably manage the process.
7. Considerable support for safeguard mechanisms to protect any interim sale of assets (including Racecourse Road) and decision-making processes regarding the proposed Global Learning Centre for Sunbury.
8. Amongst the Sunbury respondents, there was notable support for a strategic development agenda for Sunbury – including both residential and business growth – as part of any plan to move forwards.
9. The heritage building on Jackson's Hill, which was previously occupied by Victoria University, was raised by many as being of value and significance to the community – and it was expressed that a new and befitting purpose should be found for this site.
10. Significant commitment to ensuring that the current employees of Hume City Council are kept well informed and are appropriately supported by their employer throughout any transitional period.

In conclusion, the Committee notes a further clear signal to proceed with the establishment of a new municipality including Sunbury if both municipalities can be found to be economically viable- a matter which did not fall to our Committee to consider.

The Committee recommends that the Local Government Panel be strongly guided at all times by the community views expressed to ensure more effective and representative local government across all areas covered by the current Hume City Council into the future.