



MEDIA STATEMENT | 3 May 2023

Council was first made aware of Mr Taplin's marina proposal for The Bluff in 2020, and has been considering the proposal in line with its Unsolicited Proposal Policy and Guidelines.

At the Special Council meeting held on Monday 1 May 2023, Council declined to provide any further support, in-principle or otherwise, for The Bluff marina proposal submitted by Mr Taplin.

Council also revoked its decision to include independent community consultation on The Bluff marina proposal in its draft 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

A range of factors were considered by the Council in relation to the proposal, including the environmental, historical and cultural significance of the iconic landmark.

Also taken into consideration were the findings from Council's previous consultation on The Bluff, a lack of detail in the proposal, and absence of support from the State Government for the proposal thus far.

City of Victor Harbor Mayor, Dr Moira Jenkins, said the Council needed to weigh up the potential gains versus the potential losses.

"The Bluff and its surrounding waters are a very special place for locals in our region, and previous consultation with our community has highlighted that we must protect it," said Mayor Jenkins.

"I thank representatives from the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC) for recently providing a presentation to Council and sharing their perspectives on the cultural significance of The Bluff. It was clear that the concept of this development is causing a lot of pain in the Ramindjeri and Ngarrindjeri community."

"The City of Victor Harbor is not anti-development, and we are not anti-marina. In fact, Council has been exploring options for a multi-purpose boating facility in Victor Harbor for some time."

"We've worked hard to identify a range of cost savings in our draft 2023/24 Annual Business Plan and Budget, and minimise rate increases for ratepayers. Council has ultimately decided not to spend \$30,000 on consultation for a private proposal during this tough economic time. As it is his own private proposal, Mr Taplin could conduct his own community consultation or seek further feedback from the State Government."

“The Council is always open to ideas and developments that could make Victor Harbor even better, however they must be considerate to significant cultural sites amongst a range of other factors.”

“Council has commitments to reconciliation and climate action, and supporting The Bluff marina proposal (which may have negative environmental and cultural impacts) could threaten that. This decision was not made lightly by the Council, and there has been plenty of good, robust debate.”

Council understands the importance of planning for a sustainable future for The Bluff. Over the past twelve months, significant consultation has been undertaken to help shape the development of a Master Plan for The Bluff. The City of Victor Harbor thanks the hundreds of community members who were involved in this process, and looks forward to sharing the final Master Plan in the coming months.