



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

MONDAY, 3 MARCH 2008

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY 5 MARCH 2008

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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT
DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 3 MARCH 2008**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.02 P.M.

1. PRESENT

Cr. Peter Stephenson (Mayor)
Cr. Stanley Chiang
Cr. Vince Fontana
Cr. Marlene Kairouz
Cr. Chris Kelly
Cr. Mendo Kundevski
Cr. Melissa Salata
Cr. Steven Tsitas

Council Officers

Michael Ulbrick – Chief Executive Officer
Jan Black – General Manager Communities and Culture
Geoff Glynn – General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Mark Davies – General Manager Corporate Services
Kevin Breen – General Manager City Development
Libby Hynes – General Manager Environment and Amenity
Phillip Price – Acting General Manager City Services
Ray McQuillen – Manager Customer and Civic Services
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was lodged for the absence of Cr. Diana Asmar.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. M. Salata

SECONDED: Cr. S. Chiang

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 February 2008 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 50

5.1 REPORT OF CR. MELISSA SALATA

Cr. Salata reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Darebin Community and Kite Festival.
- Australian Open Bowls Championships.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG

Cr. Chiang reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- DAREBINhealth (Municipal Public Health Plan) Steering Committee meeting.
- Friends of Bundoora Park Advisory Committee meeting.
- Several Chinese New Year celebratory functions.
- Darebin Community and Kite Festival.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. MENDO KUNDEVSKI

Cr. Kundevski reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Darebin Environmental Reference Group meeting.
- Darebin Interfaith Council meeting.

5.4 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

Cr. Tsitas reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Darebin Community and Kite Festival.
- Australian Open Bowls Championships.

5.5 REPORT OF CR. CHRIS KELLY

Cr. Kelly reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Launch of Byte Back Program.
- Australian Local Government Women's Association Information Session for prospective female candidates (2008 Council Elections).

5.6 REPORT OF CR. MARLENE KAIROUZ

Cr. Kairouz reported on her attendance at the following function/activity:

- Australian Open Bowls Championships.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. VINCE FONTANA

Cr. Fontana reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Audit Committee meeting.
- Darebin Community and Kite Festival Steering Committee meeting.
- Darebin Community and Kite Festival.
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting.

5.8 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. PETER STEPHENSON

The Mayor, Cr. Stephenson, reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Darebin Community and Kite Festival.
- Citizenship Ceremony.
- Launch of Byte Back Program.
- Ruthven Primary School presentation.
- Australian Open Bowls Championships.
- Ibleo Social Club function.
- Launch of Inner North Community Foundation.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**MINUTE NO. 51**

The Mayor, Cr. Stephenson, invited questions from members of the Public Gallery.

The following questions were submitted:

- Kathleen Griffith of Thornbury asked a question about whether there have been any changes made to the plans associated with the reconstruction of Smith Street Thornbury between Leinster Grove and St. Georges Road. The question was responded to by the General Manager, Community Assets and Leisure, Geoff Glynn.
- Kathleen Griffith of Thornbury asked a question about obtaining a copy of the third 2007/2008 Council rate instalment notice as she had not received the original notice sent. The question was responded to by the General Manager, Corporate Services, Mark Davies.

- Peter Thomson of Reservoir asked a question about the non-receipt of a reply to the question he asked at the Public Question Time forum on 17 December 2007 about Council's risk management approach in relation to repairs to pedestrian areas such as footpaths and pavements. The question was responded to by the Acting General Manager City Services, Phillip Price.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**7.1 REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE****MINUTE NO. 52**

The Audit Committee is an Advisory Committee appointed, pursuant to section 139 of the Local Government Act 1989, to assist Council in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to internal control mechanisms and external reporting requirements.

A meeting of the Audit Committee was held on 18 February 2008. A summary report of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A** to this report. The minutes of the meeting, incorporating the reports considered by the Committee, have been circulated to Councillors.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. C. Kelly
SECONDED: Cr. V. Fontana

THAT the Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on Monday, 18 February 2008 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

CARRIED

7.2 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**MINUTE NO. 53**

The Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee is an Advisory Committee appointed to assist Council with the annual review of performance of the Chief Executive Officer required under section 97A of the Local Government Act 1989, and to recommend to Council on any proposal to extend the appointment and employment of the Chief Executive Officer beyond the expiry date of the Officer's contract of employment.

A meeting of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee was held on 18 February 2008. A summary report of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A** to this report. The minutes of the meeting, incorporating the report considered by the Committee, have been circulated to Councillors.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. M. Salata
SECONDED: Cr. S. Chiang

THAT the report of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting held on 18 February 2008 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

CARRIED

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

8.1 DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL - 2007 HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

MINUTE NO. 54

AUTHOR: Research Officer – Carl Benjaminsen

MANAGER: General Manager City Development – Kevin Breen

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Within budget

SUMMARY:

The *Darebin City Council – 2007 Household Survey* examines the characteristics of residents and households in the City of Darebin. It provides a wealth of information about the socio-economic and demographic profile of the community, and provides a reliable base on which to develop policy and plan service delivery that meets the needs of the residents of the municipality.

The *Household Survey* has been conducted biennially since 1999. The *Darebin City Council – 2007 Household Survey* was conducted as a door-to-door survey by Metropolis Research Pty Ltd. The survey was distributed randomly to 1,200 households across the municipality. A total of 866 surveys were returned and included in the results. This was a response rate of 72.1% of the distributed surveys.

The results of the 2007 survey highlight the diversity in the local community, and track the emerging demographic and socio-economic changes occurring across the municipality. As a middle ring municipality, Darebin is experiencing long term population change, which Council needs to understand to respond to the potential challenges that these changes bring.

CONSULTATION:

An extensive internal consultation process was undertaken to ensure that the survey met the needs of a wide range of users across the organisation.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. C. Kelly

SECONDED: Cr. M. Kundevski

THAT:

- (1) Council receive and note the *Darebin City Council – 2007 Household Survey* report attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Council disseminate the *Darebin City Council – 2007 Household Survey* report as discussed in the body of this report.

CARRIED

REPORT**Background***Aims and objectives*

The aim of the *Household Survey* is to provide Council with an accurate snapshot of the characteristics of the population of the City of Darebin. The *Household Survey* has been completed by Darebin City Council every two years since 1999. It includes a set of consistent base questions including demographics, requirements for community services and retail trading patterns.

The survey provides a timely update to the Australian Bureau of Statistics *Census of Population and Housing* and is Council's major source of demographic and socio-economic data for inter-censal years.

Survey methodology

The *2007 Household Survey* was conducted by Metropolis Research Pty Ltd in May 2007. Trained survey collector staff delivered the survey to individual households and collected them upon completion. This is the same methodology used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the distribution of the Census. The survey was distributed randomly to households across the eight precincts in the municipality. A total of 2,783 households in the City of Darebin were approached to participate in the survey. Of these 1,200 households accepted a survey and 866 surveys were returned. This is a response rate of 54.8% of the households asked to participate and 72.1% of the distributed surveys.

Core Issues*Key findings*

- There is a large amount of population migration occurring in the municipality. Approximately 40% of respondents previously lived at another address within the municipality. Just under half of the respondents who reported that they are likely to move within 12 months are planning to relocate within the municipality.
- Respondents who reported they are likely to move within the next 12 months provided three main reasons as to why they were considering moving: 19.6% reported that they were moving to upgrade, 11.9% are looking to purchase a house, and 10.9% are taking the opportunity to move as their lease is ending. Only 1.3% reported that they would potentially leave their dwelling because they cannot afford their current location.
- In 2007 16.6% of respondents reported having a disability. This result has been increasing steadily since the question was first asked in the *1999 Household Survey*. Around two thirds of the respondents who reported having a disability have a physical disability, and one in five have a psychological disability or a mobility disability.

- The personal incomes of respondents have been rising steadily since the first *Household Survey* in 1999, when the median annual personal income was \$16,059. In 2007 the median personal income had risen by around 75% to reach \$28,413. The median income for the southern precincts of Northcote, Fairfield-Alphington, Thornbury and Preston West was \$33,856 compared to the median income of \$21,322 for the northern precincts of Preston East, Reservoir East and West and Kingsbury-Bundoora. Respondents in Northcote have a median income roughly twice that reported in Reservoir East and West, and Kingsbury-Bundoora.
- Residents of the municipality have a wide range of education levels and qualifications, with over one third (36.2%) holding a university qualification. It is worth noting that at the precinct level education and qualification data highlights the differences in the socio-economic profile of residents across the municipality. For example, residents of Northcote are three times more likely to have a bachelor degree than residents in Reservoir East.
- On average a greater proportion of residents in the southern precincts of Fairfield-Alphington, Northcote, Thornbury, and Preston West work in inner Melbourne (48.0%) than residents from the northern precincts of Preston East, Reservoir East and West, and Kingsbury-Bundoora (33.2%). This reflects the larger proportion of residents in the southern precincts who work in white collar professional positions in the city.
- The proportion of respondents who look after someone to allow that person to stay in their home increased from 5.6% in 2003, to 8.1% in 2005 and up again to 11.4% in 2007. Carers provide an average of 60 hours of care per week. Around one quarter (28.2%) provide between 0 to 10 hours of care per week, and around one fifth (18.3%) provide full time care.
- Respondents were asked to describe the overall transport situation of their household, including the use of cars, public transport, walking, cycling and other modes. Three quarters of the respondents report that they are generally able to easily get to the places they need to go using a variety of transport modes. Only 1.9% of respondents reported that they regularly have difficulty getting to the places they need to go. These results suggest that households in Darebin are generally able to travel easily to the places they need to go using a variety of transport methods, including a heavy reliance on personal motor vehicles.
- Approximately one third of households (35.7%) in the municipality reported that at least one member did voluntary work for an organisation within the previous 12 months. Households in the southern precincts of the municipality report a significantly higher rate of volunteerism (42.5%) than households in the northern precincts (28.9%).
- A significant proportion of respondents reported that they participate in a range of community groups, with 18.8% participating in gym or exercise groups, 13.7% participating in sports clubs and 12.1% participating in religious groups. These results paint a picture of a sizeable population of community minded and engaged residents in the municipality, with 54.4% of the respondents reporting that they participate in at least one of the community groups listed in the survey.
- The proportion of households in Darebin who own a computer has risen with each *Household Survey*, increasing from less than half of the households surveyed in 1999 (41.4%) to almost three quarters of the household surveyed in 2007 (72.6%). The uptake of home computer ownership has slowed with each successive *Household Survey*. This slowing is likely to continue as the product reaches the “saturation point”. The proportion of households reporting they have Internet access at home has also increased with each *Household Survey* with around three and a half times as many respondent households reporting having Internet access at home in 2007 (64.2%) compared to 1999 (18.5%).

- The Preston Market has continued to increase its share of daily shopping in Darebin, up from 15.7% in 1999 to 22.9% in 2007. Preston Market is also by far the most popular shopping centre in Darebin for grocery shopping, utilized by 41.5% of respondent households. Northland Shopping Centre remains the most popular shopping location for Darebin residents for clothing and other comparison goods shopping (64.2%), while Northland Shopping Centre and Northland Homemaker Centre are the main centres residents use when shopping for larger household goods. Unlike the results for the other types of retail trade activity, the top three centres respondents visit for dining out and entertainment shopping are all outside of the municipality with Lygon Street Carlton (23.2%), Brunswick Street Fitzroy (21.1%) and the Melbourne CBD (20.6%) the most commonly selected centres.

Conclusions

The population of the City of Darebin is diverse in a range of different ways, including the socio-economic profile and lifestyles of the residents of the municipality. The characteristics of the municipality are constantly changing, driven in part by wider demographic and social trends occurring across metropolitan Melbourne. An example of this change is the wave of “gentrification” moving up from inner Melbourne and across the City of Darebin. This had led to changes in the housing choices residents are making, their demographic characteristics and their socio-economic profile, with rising education levels and incomes particularly apparent in the southern precincts of the municipality.

As a middle ring municipality experiencing long term population change, Council needs to understand and respond to the potential challenges that these changes bring to ensure that Council policy and service delivery models meet the needs of the local community.

Financial Implications

Finalisation of the *Darebin City Council – 2007 Household Survey* report and the preparation of the summary report were accounted for in the 2006/2007 budget.

Future Actions

The full report and a summary will be made publicly available. Both will be available in electronic format from Council’s website and the summary report will also be available in hard copy. Data from the report is already filtering into policy work occurring across Council.

Related Documents

Darebin City Council – 2007 Household Survey

Darebin City Council – 2007 Household Survey summary document

8.2 ARTS AND CULTURAL PLAN FOR THE CITY OF DAREBIN**MINUTE NO. 55****AUTHOR:** Manager Arts & Cultural Development - Mark Wilkinson**MANAGER:** General Manager Communities and Culture - Jan Black**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

Presentation for endorsement of a new arts and cultural strategy developed after wide consultation and based on a set of principles that underpin the plan's objectives and actions.

CONSULTATION:

Council officers
Other Councils
Community focus groups
Community reference forum
Darebin Ethnic Communities Council
Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council
Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council adopt *Making Art: Darebin City Council Arts & Cultural Plan 2008-2013* attached as **Appendix A** to this report as the strategy for the development of the Arts and Cultural program in the municipality for the next 5 years.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. M. Salata
SECONDED: Cr. M. Kundevski

THAT Council:

- (1) Adopt *Making Art: Darebin City Council Arts & Cultural Plan 2008-2013* attached as **Appendix A** to this report as the strategy for the development of the Arts and Cultural program in the municipality for the next 5 years.
- (2) Investigate ways in which a broader spectrum of our artistic community can be engaged, in particular to reach out to those artists that Council has yet to engage with.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Council's last Arts and Cultural Plan was for the period 1999 – 2004 and outlined:

- Council's role in Arts and Cultural Development;
- Council's Arts and Cultural Programs;
- A set of principles to underpin Council's work in Arts and Cultural Development;
- Strategic objectives based on the principles; and
- Indicative actions to realise the objectives.

In 2002, the Arts and Cultural Development Branch undertook its Best Value review; its Continuous Business Improvement Plan was endorsed by Council in 2003.

A review of the current Strategy was undertaken during the period December 2006 – December 2007.

Core Issues

The process of reviewing the Strategy and developing a new one consisted of:

1. An analysis of relevant Council documentation.
2. An analysis of the arts and cultural development strategies of other Councils.
3. The establishment of a Reference Forum, primarily consisting of community members, whose role was to provide advice regarding the review of the current Strategy and the development of a new one.
4. A community consultation process during which the community were consulted regarding the current Strategy and the work the Branch has undertaken in the period 1999 – 2004 (the effectiveness of that work; areas that require development; gaps; proposed strategies to address those gaps). This was done via:
 - (a) A general community survey;
 - (b) Focus groups (two involving the community and one with staff);
 - (c) A questionnaire posted onto Council's web-site, linked to *What's On* (the Branch's weekly emailed listing of events) and inserted into *D'Art* (the Branch's hard copy newsletter); and,
 - (d) Specific consultation around issues of diversity took place with the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council, the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee and the Darebin Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Communities Council.
5. The development of a draft new Strategy based on the findings of the consultation, analysis of Council documentation discussed above and feedback from the Reference Forum.

The draft new Strategy (see **Appendix A** attached) consists of:

1. A list of definitions of “culture”; “arts”; “arts and culture”; “heritage”.
2. An introduction to arts and cultural activities organised by Council and outlines the activities of each of the Council cultural branches.
3. A section describing why Council undertakes arts and cultural development and its approach to it. This is drawn primarily from the Best Value review of the Arts and Cultural Development Branch.
4. A set of principles which underpin arts and cultural development undertaken by Council. These are:
 - (a) *Participation by all*. Council encourages everyone to participate in arts and cultural activities and enables groups that may require additional support to participate actively.
 - (b) *Celebrating diversity*. Recognises and points out the benefits of the enormous diversity of the community.
 - (c) *Promoting innovation and debate*. Debate, risk-taking and innovation are positive as they help us to consider critically conventional views, ideas etc.
 - (d) *Supporting artists*. Fostering the development of artists’ skills aids their ability to work with the community to realise its artistic aspirations and increases their employment opportunities.
 - (e) *Improving public spaces*. Recognition that the built and natural environments are community assets and that artistic activities can add to appreciation of these.
 - (f) *Fostering wellbeing*. Participation in the arts contributes to wellbeing.
 - (g) *Promoting economic development*. Cultural industries and cultural tourism have the potential to both increase employment opportunities for people in those industries, as well as contribute to economic benefits for the whole community.
 - (h) *Promoting the arts in education*. The arts are an essential component of a comprehensive education and ‘life-long’ learning.
5. Strategic aims - these follow on from and are underpinned by the principles. For each aim there is a set of actions to be implemented over the next five years.

Financial Implications

Nil.

Future Actions

Following presentation of the Strategy to Council, an implementation plan will be developed and put into place.

Related Documents

Arts and Cultural Strategy 1999 – 2004

Beyond FIDO Public Art Strategy 2006 - 2015

8.3 TRAVEL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE PROGRAMS IN DAREBIN**MINUTE NO. 56****AUTHOR:** Transport Strategy Coordinator – Kate Myers**MANAGER:** Manager, Transport Management & Planning – Daniel Kollmorgen**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within current budget and grant funding received**SUMMARY:**

The City of Darebin has been a leader in travel behaviour change programs in Victoria, if not Australia, for a number of years. Our successes in this field have been numerous and the feedback from residents involved in the programs has been exceptionally positive. This report serves to summarise the programs implemented over the past year, provide results, feedback and a summary of plans for the future of travel behaviour change programs for Darebin.

CONSULTATION:

Department of Infrastructure, neighbouring Councils, Transport Management and Planning Branch, other relevant Departments within Council.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. M. Kundevski**SECONDED:** Cr. M. Salata**THAT:**

- (1) The status of travel behaviour change programs, as outlined in the body of this report, be noted.
- (2) Council continues to promote, support and encourage sustainable transport initiatives.
- (3) Officers continue to provide Council with annual reports on the progress of travel behaviour change initiatives within Darebin.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Firstly through Darebin's Integrated Travel Plan (ITP, 2001) and now through the Darebin Transport Strategy (DTS, 2007) Council had a clear mandate to undertake a Green Travel Plan for Council staff and travel awareness campaigns to change the attitude of the community at large in the way they travel.

In addition, Commitment 39 of the Council Plan refers to Council's commitment to delivering travel behaviour change and information programs: "We will encourage use of alternatives to the motor vehicle such as walking, cycling and public transport and we will advocate for the development of services and infrastructure that support this change".

The Green Travel Plan (GTP) for Council staff was the first travel behaviour change program introduced to Darebin. Since the appointment of a full time Sustainable Transport Officer in October 2003, a number of programs have been conducted which have attracted substantial external funding, national and international attention as well as praise from our residents.

Core Issues

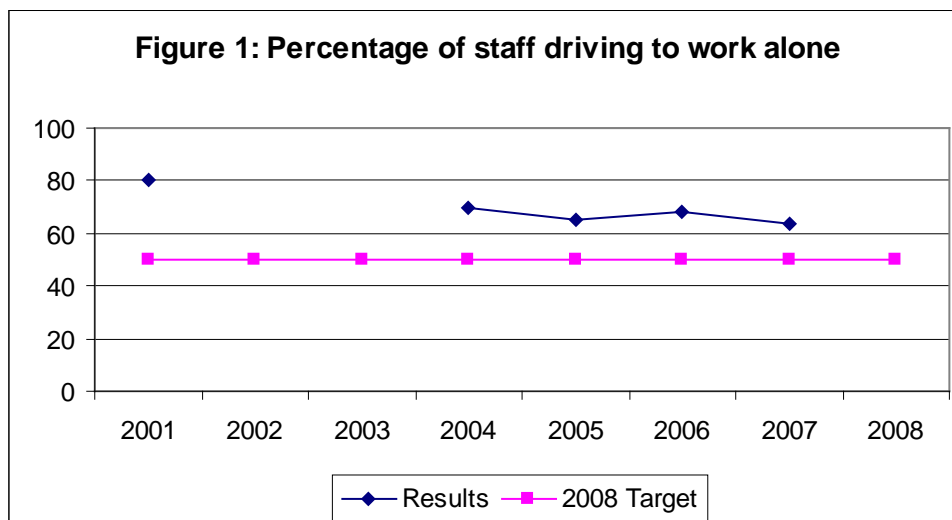
Since the initial report to Council in 2004 on travel behaviour change programs, a number of significant projects have been implemented within the Darebin community and results for others have been received. **Appendix A** provides an overview on the status of these projects and available results. Key projects, however deserve particular attention, these are detailed below.

In reporting on the programs run by Council, it must be remembered that changing travel behaviours is a long term endeavour. Even though it is difficult and costly to measure with any certainty some elements, it is important to continue these programs and to lead by example for the long term objectives of minimising our impact on climate change and minimising the effect of peak oil with our communities.

Love Living Local: Darebin, in partnership with the Victorian Government, is now midway through a three year program to implement an innovative travel behaviour change program. Funding of \$300,000 over three years was awarded, to be matched by Council and the community by in-kind and monetary sources. Each year of the program will concentrate on a different Activity Centre; Preston (2006/2007), Fairfield and Thornbury (2007/2008) then Reservoir (2008/2009). In each of these centres the schools, traders, shoppers, newly arrived tenants and local residents are targeted. Programs have been designed to encourage, reward and promote local shopping using sustainable transport modes.

The Love Living Local program began in Preston and engaged a wide cross section of the community including four schools, Preston Business Association, Preston Market, Northern Bullants Football Club, nearly 4,000 households and four Real Estate Agents. Results will be available in May for Preston activities.

Green Travel Plan (GTP): The GTP continues to be Darebin's flagship travel behaviour change initiative and is applauded by both the local government sector and other organisations. Our first goal of reducing staff travelling to work alone to 70% was reached in 2004 – one year before the target of 2005. This is a result of incentives, events and awareness programs conducted with the staff over a period of four years and installing new facilities. This figure dropped to 65% in 2005; 68% in 2006 and 64% in 2007 as per Figure 1 below. The 2007 survey revealed the lowest level of staff car use to date and was celebrated!



Since the inception of the Incentive Program as part of the GTP, the following outstanding results have been achieved:

- 59,000 trips by staff coming to/from work being registered as sustainable modes
- 649,000 kilometres¹ not travelled by car with a single occupant
- 214 tonnes² of greenhouse gas emissions abated through the GTP incentive scheme.

The GTP initiatives have been melded into Council practice so that costs are not borne by one area and they have become standard Council Business across the board. As such it is difficult to track the cost of the GTP although substantial savings from some initiatives (Metcards for business travel) are also made. The budget allocation for Transport Management to implement the bulk of the GTP per annum is \$10,000.

Currently the GTP is undergoing a review to determine possible improvements and changes that can be made to keep it relevant and appropriate to staff. The review has been initiated in light of the age of the program and the target originally set for 2008 (50% of staff travelling to work alone) that is not likely to be achieved due to a number of circumstances including:

- Continued provision of free parking for staff in the Preston offices
- Ample free unrestricted parking in nearby streets for staff at Preston
- The size of the car pool fleet (currently under review through the Climate Change Action Team).

¹ Staff registered on the GTP incentive scheme travel an average of 11km to work

² GHG emissions = VKT x 0.33kg per person per kilometre

The 50% target was a 'stretch goal' that was set in 2001. The GTP review and a proposed way forward is scheduled to be completed will be known in March 2008 and presented to the GTP Steering Group (EMT).

Going Places – Darebin's Community Reward Scheme: Council originally received \$49,700 of funding through the Department of Infrastructure to deliver Going Places.

The program is designed to extend a travel behaviour change method that has proven very successful in a Council staff setting – the rewards scheme. Going Places encourages residents to make changes to their travel habits by rewarding them for fulfilling a pledge to drive two less drive alone trips per week. It is operated through a web-based program whereby each time a resident achieves this goal they log the pledge on the website and earn points to redeem as rewards. Members of Going Places also have access to a discount card for local businesses and are able to communicate with each other through an on-line messaging service.

Since Going Places was launched in February 2006 the following results have been achieved:

Item (cumulative)	First Year	Second Year
Number of Members	380	520
Greenhouse gases abated	33 tonnes	58 tonnes
Kilometers of car travel saved	100,000km	161,000km
\$ saved in the community	\$13,000	\$22,700

Recognition for Darebin's Work: The design and implementation of the above initiatives (and those found in **Appendix A**) demonstrate Darebin's commitment to sustainable transport programs – a fact recognised throughout Australia. This is demonstrated by the following recognition in the last 12 months:

- Going Places won the national level United Nations Association of Australia World Environment Day Award for the Best Specific Environmental Initiative by a Local Government – June 2007.
- Going Places was a finalist in the LGPro Awards for Excellence, February 2007.
- The University of NSW is currently taking great steps to replicate Going Places for their students and staff.
- Going Places has been nominated for the Cycling Promotions Fund Bicycling Achievement Award and the Victorian Premiers Sustainability Awards.

The future of travel behaviour change programs in Darebin: The forthcoming financial year will see a continuation of travel behaviour change programs in Darebin as budgeted and planned for; these include Love Living Local, funded until June 2009. At the conclusion of Love Living Local all previous travel behaviour change programs in Darebin will be reviewed to determine a set of programs for subsequent financial years. This is in accordance with the Darebin Transport Strategy actions:

A31 Review Darebin's behaviour change programs: ensure current and ongoing programs are meeting expectations, continue to be worthwhile and are sufficiently integrated into all new systems and infrastructure delivered by Council.

A32 Pilot and test innovative sustainable transport initiatives: Council is open to innovative ideas and will support well-designed trials of promising ideas.

A33 Promote informed travel choices: This includes a wide range of initiatives including information packs to new residents, quality maps, advice and materials to event managers, free Bike Education training and use of bicycles in primary schools, walking programs, supporting community groups to take a leadership role in sustainable transport and local purchasing policies and campaigns.

A35 Develop and build on successful school travel plans: this includes working through the 'Love Living Local' framework to develop new plans in targeted areas and directing schools to other agencies – such as Bicycle Victoria – for help.

Financial Implications

All programs are catered for in the current budget together with the grant funding/collateral that Darebin has been successful in attaining. Future programs will be referred to future budget processes.

Future Actions

An Annual Report to be submitted to Council on the progress of current and future travel behaviour change programs in Darebin.

Related Documents

Darebin Transport Strategy, 2007

Integrated Travel Plan, 2001

Green Travel Plan, 2001

Report to Council, September 2004 "Travel behaviour change programs in Darebin"

Report to Council, November 2005 "Travel behaviour change programs in Darebin"

Report to Council, February 2007 "Travel behaviour change programs in Darebin"

EMT Green Travel Plan Status Report, June 2005

EMT Green Travel Plan Status Report, August 2006

EMT Green Travel Plan Status Report, July 2007

**8.4 OPTIONS FOR SHADE – EDWARDES STREET RESERVOIR
(NEAR CORNER OF SPRING STREET)**

MINUTE NO. 57

AUTHOR: Activity Centre Coordinator - Leanne Deans**MANAGER:** Manager Major Projects and Activity Centres - Nick Mazarella**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Nil.**SUMMARY:**

At the Council meeting on 4 February 2008, Council requested a report on ways in which shade can be provided to public seats located at the Bus Stop on the south side of Edwardes Street Reservoir near the corner of Spring Street.

Council officers believe that options for shelter beyond provision of a bus shelter are limited and propose that the location be considered for a Department of Infrastructure funded bus shelter.

CONSULTATION:

Daniel Kollmorgen – Manager Transport Management and Planning, James Dickson - Urban Designer, Wal Cichocki – Traffic Engineer, Tennille Temizyuz – Disability Access Coordinator, Jeremy Morgan – Business Development Officer, Penny Jamieson – Centre Marketing Coordinator

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. C. Kelly
SECONDED: Cr. M. Salata

THAT Council:

- (1) Receive and note the contents of this report relating to options to provide shade to the Bus Stop located on Edwardes Street Reservoir (south side) near the corner of Spring Street.
- (2) Add this Bus Stop location to the list of locations to be considered for Department of Infrastructure funded bus shelters.

CARRIED**REPORT****Background**

At the Council meeting on 4 February 2008, Council requested that a “report be submitted to Council on ways in which shade can be provided to the Bus Stop on the south side of Edwardes Street Reservoir near the corner of Spring Street”.

Council recently upgraded the street furniture in the Reservoir Village Activity Centre which involved the installation of two (2) new seats at this bus stop. The original seats were removed from the building side of the footpath and the new seats were installed on the kerb side of the footpath. The relocation means that Council now complies with its Footpath Activities Policy and Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2006 - 2009 however the seats are no longer sheltered by the existing verandah.

Core Issues

Options and Issues

Council officers identified the following options for the provision of shade:

1. Relocate existing seats
2. Install a bus shelter
3. Design and construct an awning to the building verandah
4. Plant a street tree.

In assessing these options, the following key issues were considered:

1. Accessibility

Council's Footpath Activities Policy establishes a "Walkway Section" which is the area immediately adjacent to the building. The Footpath Activities Policy and supporting Guidelines prevent any fixed or temporary items being located in the Walkway Area. This area can be 1.5m or 1.8m from the building depending on the width of the footpath. The guidelines state that "*a clear section from the property line will assist safe access for all pedestrians, including those with a disability or sight impairment. Buildings often provide a guide for pedestrians and should be kept clear*". This policy is supported by the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2006 / 2009 and also complies with the Austroads Handbook HB 69.13-1995 and Australian Standards AS1428.

2. Need

To date, Council has not provided shaded public seating along footpaths. Given that this seating is at a bus stop, the need for shade is considered within the context of providing a bus shelter. A range of criteria is considered when prioritising bus shelter locations including patronage, need (considering available shelter in the area) and the suitability of the location for a shelter. Council officers acknowledge that it is desirable to provide sheltered bus stops. Only 170 bus stops have shelters out of the 670 bus stops that exist throughout the municipality.

3. Cost

Council does not typically fund the installation of bus shelters and relies on annual funding from the Department of Infrastructure (DOI) which generally covers the cost of approximately eight (8) shelters throughout the municipality. The 2007/2008 grant has been allocated to other sites. An individual bus shelter costs approximately \$15,000

Consideration of Options

1. Relocate existing seats

Relocation of the seats approximately 600mm south of the current position so that they are beneath the verandah line does not resolve the issue of shelter. The seating would still be exposed to the sun due to the northerly aspect of the footpath. Additionally, this location would not afford any real protection from wind or rain. Council officers also believe that additional problems would be created in that furniture would no longer be aligned with other Council bins and poles creating further obstacles for pedestrians to navigate along the footpath. The Reservoir Village Access Audit identified that an essential key to an effective pedestrian system throughout streetscape and Retail Activity Centres is the development and maintenance of a continuous path of travel. This requires the provision of a continuous step and barrier free route linking key elements of an area that can be safely negotiated by all people including people with a range of access challenges and disabilities.

2. Install a bus shelter

The installation of a bus shelter in this location is considered a low priority given the existence of an adjacent building verandah that provides sufficient shelter from the weather. While a bus shelter would fit in this location, Council officers advise that it is not ideally suited given the existence of a building verandah. Given these circumstances, it is unlikely that this location would receive priority for DOI funding however this does not prevent Council from adding the location to the list for consideration in the 2008/2009 funding round. Alternatively Council could provide \$15,000 towards the installation of the bus shelter, however the \$15,000 is currently unfunded and would establish a precedent that would be costly to replicate.

3. Design and construct an awning to the building verandah

The construction of an awning or similar structure to the verandah is an option that presents many challenges. This type of installation is not part of Council's suite of street furniture therefore would have to be designed or a suitable "off the shelf" design sourced. There are a range of issues that would inform a design including mobility beneath the awning, set back from the kerb, clear vision of waiting bus patrons and conforming with a range of statutory requirements. A further complication is that the building verandah is privately owned. If these issues could be overcome, it is considered that the cost of design and construction would be relatively high and in excess of \$10,000.

4. Plant a street tree

The planting of a street tree is unlikely to provide sufficient shade as a small species would be selected in order to fit beneath the verandah. There are further issues associated with the site being a bus stop and the need to maintain clear visibility of patrons waiting for the bus.

Conclusion

Council officers believe that options for shelter are limited in this location based on the following:

- The relocation of the seating does not provide any real shelter and creates further issues for mobility related to the alignment of street furniture.
- A bus shelter is considered a low priority for this location and on this basis is not an effective use of Council resources and would establish a precedent that would be costly to replicate.

- The installation of an awning on the building verandah is not a suitable option on the basis that it is private property, there are many design issues that would need to be overcome and it would create a precedent that would be very costly for Council to replicate elsewhere.
- A street tree would not provide sufficient shelter and would create sight issues at the bus stop.

On this basis the recommended option is that Council consider the location for a bus shelter in the 2008/2009 DOI funding grant. It is likely that this location will be given a low priority based on the assessment criteria mentioned and on this basis the location may need to stay on the list for further consideration beyond the next funding round.

Financial Implications

Depending on Council's decision, the following financial implications could apply:

1. Relocate existing seats – Cost \$200.
2. Install a Council funded bus shelter – Cost \$15,000
3. Apply for a DOI funded bus shelter – Cost Nil
4. Design and construct an awning to the building verandah – Approximate Cost \$10,000.

Future Actions

That this location be considered for a DOI funded bus stop.

Related Documents

Access Appraisal Report – Edwardes Street Reservoir Activity Centre 2007

City of Darebin Disability Access & Inclusion Plan 2006 – 2009

City of Darebin Footpath Activities Policy 2006

City of Darebin Footpath Activities Guidelines 2002

Australian Standard AS1428

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)

8.5 RIGHT OF WAY (ROAD) DISCONTINUANCE REAR 154-164 WOOD STREET AND 45-57 MALPAS STREET AND ADJOINING 2 STEPNEY STREET, PRESTON

MINUTE NO. 58

AUTHOR: Property Officer – Kelly Caruso

MANAGER: Manager Asset Strategy – Nerina Di Lorenzo

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Net income from this scheme during 2007/2008 is estimated at \$18,995

SUMMARY:

This report recommends that Council discontinue the section of right of way (road) at the rear of 154 - 164 Wood Street and 45-57 Malpas Street and adjoining 2 Stepney Street, Preston, and sell the land from the road to the owners of adjoining properties by private treaty.

Statutory procedures under the Local Government Act 1989 have been completed and this report recommends that the road be discontinued and sold by private treaty.

CONSULTATION:

Owners/occupiers of abutting properties, Service Authorities and Council Departments.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. M. Kundevski

SECONDED: Cr. C. Kelly

THAT Council, having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the road at the rear of 154 - 164 Wood Street and 45-57 Malpas Street and adjoining 2 Stepney Street, Preston, shown hatched on the plan enclosed as **Appendix A** to this report, and having received no submissions in respect of this proposal under Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989:

- (1) discontinues the road in accordance with Section 206 and Schedule 10, Clause 3 of the Local Government Act 1989;
- (2) directs that a notice be published in the Victoria Government Gazette;
- (3) directs that the land from the road be sold by private treaty to the owners of abutting properties in accordance with Council policy guidelines;

- (4) directs that the discontinuance and sale will not affect any right, power or interest held by Yarra Valley Water Limited and the City of Darebin, in the road in connection with any sewers, drains or pipes under the control of those authorities in or near the road; and
- (5) signs and seals all documents relating to the sale of any land from the discontinued road to the owners of abutting properties.

CARRIED

REPORT

Background

Council had originally received a request from the owner of 164 Wood Street, Preston, for the discontinuance and sale of the road at the rear of his property.

An investigation of the road revealed as follows:

- The section at the rear of 45 to 49 Malpas Street and 154 to 156 Wood Street and adjoining 2 Stepney Street is currently open and is not used for access. The road is generally overgrown and unkempt, with the exception of the area adjoining 2 Stepney Street which is maintained by the owners of that property.
- The section at the rear of 51 to 55 Malpas Street and 158 to 162 Wood Street is occupied by the adjoining properties. This situation has existed for a number of years.
- The section at the rear of 57 Malpas Street and 164 Wood Street is currently open and is not used for access. The land is overgrown and unkempt.
- The section at the rear of 59 to 63 Malpas Street and 166 to 170 Wood Street is open and was possibly occasionally used for access.

The owner of 59 Malpas Street expressed strong objection to the proposal on the grounds that the road was required for access to the rear of that property. Accordingly, the discontinuance of the section of road at the rear of 166-170 Wood street and 59-63 Malpas Street, leading out to McColl Street, was not proceeded with.

Agreement to the closure has been forthcoming from the majority of the remaining owners.

Council's Acting Manager Asset Strategy, on 30 November 2007, acting under delegated authority, directed that the statutory procedures for the discontinuance and sale of the road at the rear of 154 - 164 Wood Street and 45-57 Malpas Street and adjoining 2 Stepney Street, Preston, be commenced.

Core Issues

Public notice of the proposed discontinuance and sale was given in The Age and Preston Leader newspapers on Tuesday, 22 January 2008.

The owners and occupiers of the adjoining properties were also informed of the proposal in writing and were advised that submissions received in writing would be considered by Council in accordance with the provisions of section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

No submissions have been received.

Financial Implications

Net income from this scheme, based on the current market value of the land, occupation and potential for the future sale of all of the land is estimated at \$58,232 (Net income during 2007/2008 is estimated at \$18,995).

Future Actions

Arrange for a notice to be published in the Victoria Government Gazette and the land to be sold and transferred to the owners of abutting properties in accordance with Council policy guidelines.

Related Documents

Appendix A showing the section of road proposed to be discontinued and sold is enclosed.

8.6 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND 'GENERAL BUSINESS' ITEMS OUTSTANDING**MINUTE NO. 59****AUTHOR:** Council Business Coordinator – Ron Downes**MANAGER:** General Manager Corporate Services – Mark Davies**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

This report provides a summary of the status of reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at February 2008.

CONSULTATION:

Executive Management Team

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. M. Salata
SECONDED: Cr. V. Fontana

THAT the status report on Reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at February 2008, attached as **Appendix A** to this report, be received and noted.

CARRIED

REPORT

The status of outstanding reports and actions requested by Council resolution is reported to Council monthly.

A schedule of the reports and actions outstanding as at February 2008 is attached as **Appendix A**.

The list of reports requested includes items raised by Councillors under 'General Business'.

Items are deleted from the list once the report or action has been completed and the completed status has been noted by the Council.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS**10.1 DISMANTLED LIGHT POLES – JOHN CAIN RESERVE****MINUTE NO. 60**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

In submitting this item, Cr. Kairouz tabled a copy of correspondence dated 28 February 2008 she had received from Martin Ferguson MP, Federal Labor Member for Batman in relation to this matter, and also a copy of his acknowledgement letter dated 28 February 2008 to the Alphington Junior Football Club.

MOVED: Cr. M. Kairouz

SECONDED: Cr. M. Salata

THAT a report be submitted to Council after investigating the whereabouts of two light poles that were dismantled from John Cain Reserve due to the upgrade of the grounds, and that the investigation include discussions with the Alphington Junior Football Club.

CARRIED

10.2 PROPOSED LANEWAY UPGRADES**MINUTE NO. 61**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas

SECONDED: Cr. M. Kundevski

THAT Council Officers inspect the condition of the following two laneways:

- (1) At the rear of 47, 49, 51, 53 and 55 Mitchell Street, Northcote
- (2) At the rear of 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 Beavers Road, Northcote

and report back to Council with recommendations for appropriate remedial works to be carried out and referral to the Capital Works budget for future projects.

CARRIED

10.3

**PROPOSED REMEDIAL WORKS TO BITUMEN PATHWAYS
IN ABERDEEN GROVE NORTHCOTE, AND RISK
ASSESSMENT OF BITUMEN PATHWAYS IN DAREBIN
GENERALLY**

MINUTE NO. 62

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. M. Kairouz

THAT Council Officers:

- (1) Inspect the state of the bitumen pathways in Aberdeen Grove Northcote and report back with recommendations for appropriate remedial works to be carried out and referral to the Capital Works budget for future projects.
- (2) Report back to Council on the risk assessment of bitumen pathways throughout Darebin and the associated public liability issues for Council.

CARRIED

11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.