



# **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**MONDAY, 17 AUGUST 2009**

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RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 2009

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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 17 AUGUST 2009**

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**THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.02 P.M.**

**1. PRESENT**

*Councillors*

Cr. Diana Asmar (Mayor)  
Cr. Stanley Chiang  
Cr. Vince Fontana  
Cr. Gaetano Greco  
Cr. Nick Katsis  
Cr. Tim Laurence  
Cr. Ben Morgan  
Cr. Trent McCarthy  
Cr. Steven Tsitas

*Council Officers*

Michael Ulbrick – Chief Executive Officer  
Geoff Glynn – General Manager Community Assets and Leisure  
Jeff Saker – General Manager City Services  
Dean Griggs – Acting General Manager Communities and Culture  
Libby Hynes – General Manager Environment and Amenity  
Bruce Dobson – General Manager Corporate Services  
Ray McQuillen – Manager Customer and Civic Services  
Graeme Houlden – Manager Capital Works  
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

**2. APOLOGIES**

Nil.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Cr. Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 7.1 (Community Grants Committee) and “General Business” Item 10.1 (Submission to National Health and Hospital Reform Commission) – see pages 6 and 46.

Cr. Greco disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 11.2 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Bent Street, Northcote – CT 20091) – see Page 47.

Cr. Tsitas disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 8.1 (Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009) – Page 7.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. V. Fontana**

**SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan**

**THAT** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 3 August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

**CARRIED**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. V. Fontana**

**SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan**

**THAT** the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 10 August 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

**CARRIED**

## **5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS**

### **MINUTE NO. 288**

*In introducing this Agenda item, the Mayor, Cr. Asmar, drew attention to the presence in the public gallery of former Darebin Councillor and Mayor of the City, and recently retired Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Local Governance Association, Ms Rae Kingsbury.*

#### **5.1 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO**

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

- Community Grants Committee meeting.
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council Executive meeting.
- Visit to the new Darebin Youth Centre at Northland.
- Briefing of Steering Committee – Reservoir Structure Plan.
- Meeting of Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council.
- Reservoir Progress Association meeting.
- Launch of Community Climate Change Action Plan.

#### **5.2 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN**

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

- Meetings with residents of Benambra Street Preston in relation to traffic issues in the area. Cr. Morgan gave notice of his intention to raise the matter under “General Business” later in the Council meeting.
- Local constituent matters.

#### **5.3 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE**

Cr. Laurence reported on his attendance at the following function/activity:

- Indian National Day celebration

#### **5.4 REPORT OF CR. VINCE FONTANA**

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

- Meeting with a St Georges Road Residents’ Group in relation to a local planning permit issue.
- Preston Bullants Junior Football Club end of season presentation day.
- Meeting with the Hon. Justice Kevin Bell, President of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- Community Grants Committee meeting.

- Preston Business Advisory Committee meeting.
- Indian National Day celebration.

### **5.5 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSIS**

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

- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council meeting.
- Preston Bullants Junior Football Club end of season presentation day.
- Local constituent issues.

### **5.6 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG**

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

- Official Opening of The Gallery Ark exhibition at Bundoora Homestead.
- International Yabbie Festival in Melbourne.
- Victorian Multicultural Commission Community Consultation.

### **5.7 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY**

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

- Local constituent issues in relation to planning and local laws.
- Community Grants Committee meeting.
- Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria meeting.
- Addressed students from St. Joseph the Worker.
- Launch of Community Climate Change Action Plan.
- Merri Creek Management Committee 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.

### **5.8 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. DIANA ASMAR**

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar, reported on her attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee meeting.
- Community Grants Committee meeting.
- Visit from Preston North East Primary School.
- Launch of 2009 Operation Bounce Back Project.
- Meeting of Mayors of adjoining municipalities.
- Meeting with the Hon. Justice Kevin Bell, President of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

- Citizenship ceremony.
- Youth Summit.
- Launch of Community Climate Change Action Plan.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

### **MINUTE NO. 289**

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar, invited questions from members of the public gallery.

The following questions were submitted:

- John Nugent of Epping asked a question about Council's criteria for Sport and Recreation Victoria Grant Applications. The question was responded to by the Chief Executive Officer, Michael Ulbrick and the General Manager Community Assets and Leisure, Geoff Glynn, who indicated that he would provide a written response.
- John Nugent of Epping asked a question about a review of senior women ground fees when Council reviews the Sports in the North Policy. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Asmar.
- John Nugent of Epping asked a question about capital funding of works at Zwar Park. The General Manager Community Assets and Leisure, Geoff Glynn, indicated that he would provide a written response.

After Public Question Time had concluded, five further questions were submitted in writing.



## 7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

*Cr. Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in the following matter classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest because of conflicting duty and describing the nature of the interest as that he is the President of the North Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association (NEMCA), an applicant organisation. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.35pm.*

### 7.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

#### MINUTE NO. 290

The Community Grants Committee is an Advisory Committee appointed to assist Council with the implementation of the Community Grants Scheme Annual Grants Program.

A meeting of the Community Grants Committee was held on 4 August 2009. 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.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Report of the Community Grants Committee meeting held on 4 August 2009 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** the Minutes of the Community Grants Committee meeting held on 4 August 2009, and Summary Report attached as **Appendix A** be amended by the addition of Cr. Trent McCarthy as present at the meeting on 4 August 2009, and that the Minutes and Summary Report as amended, and Committee Recommendations, be adopted.

**CARRIED**

*Cr. Chiang returned to the meeting – 7.37pm.*

#### PROCEDURAL MOTION

**MOVED:** Cr. T. Laurence  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Chiang

**THAT** Report Item No. 8.5 be brought forward and be the first report considered by Council.

**CARRIED**

## 8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

*Cr. Tsitas disclosed a conflict of interest in the following matter classifying the type of interest as a direct interest and describing the nature of the interest as that he is employed in a position which would be directly affected by the Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.38pm.*

### 8.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AMENDMENT (CONFLICTING DUTIES) BILL 2009

MINUTE NO. 291

**AUTHOR:** Manager Customer and Civic Services – Ray McQuillen

**MANAGER:** General Manager Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson

**BUDGET  
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil

#### SUMMARY:

The Minister for Local Government has introduced a Bill into Parliament to alter the eligibility criteria for Councillors.

This report outlines the provisions of the Bill and the local government community response to the Bill.

#### CONSULTATION:

Municipal Association of Victoria  
Victorian Local Governance Association  
Chief Executive Officer

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** this report outlining the Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009 be received and noted.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. Laurence  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT**

- (1) This report outlining the Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009 be received and noted.
- (2) Council write to the Minister for Local Government calling on him to support the private members amendment to the Bill when it goes to the Upper House, ensuring that the new provisions do not apply retrospectively.

**CARRIED****REPORT****BACKGROUND**

The Minister for Local Government introduced the Local Government Act (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009 into Parliament on 29 July 2009. The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Local Government Act 1989 to prevent Councillors from having conflicting duties arising from specified offices or positions with other publicly elected bodies.

The Bill is in response to a recommendation of the Ombudsman Victoria arising from his 'investigation into the alleged improper conduct of councillors at Brimbank City Council' (May 2009).

The Ombudsman recommended that the Local Government Act be amended to disqualify persons employed as electorate officers, ministerial advisers and parliamentary advisers, or employed by Federal or State Members of Parliament, from becoming or continuing to be a councillor or nominating as a candidate.

The Bill was introduced into Parliament on 29 July 2009 and given normal Parliamentary processes, the earliest time the Bill could be passed by both the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council would be the first week in September 2009.

**CORE ISSUES**Provisions of the Conflicting Duties Bill

The Local Government Act (Conflicting Duties) Bill inserts new sections 28A and 28B into the Local Government Act 1989.

New section 28A prevents a person from becoming or continuing to be a Councillor or nominating as a candidate at a Council election if the person is at the time either:

- A member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, or of the Parliament of Victoria or of another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth; or

- Employed as a Ministerial officer, a Parliamentary adviser or an electorate officer (or corresponding position) by or for a member of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, or of the Parliament of Victoria or of another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth; or
- A Councillor of another Council in Victoria or a Councillor (or corresponding position) of another Council in another State or a Territory of the Commonwealth.

The terms *Ministerial officer*, *Parliamentary adviser* and *electorate officer* are defined in the Bill as follows:

- Electorate officer means a person employed under Part 4 of the Parliamentary Administration Act 2005.
- Ministerial officer means a person employed as a Ministerial officer under Part 6 of the Public Administration Act 2004.
- Parliamentary adviser means a person employed as a Parliamentary adviser under Part 6 of the Public Administration Act 2004.

A person who is employed as a Ministerial officer, a Parliamentary adviser or as an electorate officer by or for a member of the Parliament can nominate as a candidate and be declared elected at a Council election if that person has taken leave from their specified office or position and does not perform any of the duties of that office or position for the duration of the election period. However, such a person cannot take the oath of office after being declared elected if that person continues to hold that specified office or position.

New section 28B provides transitional arrangements for persons who are Councillors immediately before the commencement of the Bill. The Bill proposes that there would be a period of seven days grace for anyone affected by the legislation to resign from a conflicting position if they wish to remain a Councillor.

### **Local Government Sector Response**

Both the Victorian Local Governance Association and the Municipal Association of Victoria have raised concerns about the proposed legislation.

The Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) in its media release of 15 June 2009 indicated that the proposal to 'retrospectively ban Councillors from employment as electoral officers or ministerial advisers proposed by the State Government, should not proceed without greater consultation and consideration for existing laws and sanctions'.

The VLGA went on to say that 'existing rules already prohibit Councillors misusing their position, improperly directing officers and engaging in conflicts between their public duties and personal interests including the interests of an employer. Therefore, the use and enforcement of existing legislation and disciplinary tools dealing with councillor misconduct need to be first priority.'

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has considered legal advice about the proposed Bill and has resolved that it will:

- Identify if one or more individuals (who are affected by the provision) are prepared to seek a declaration in the Supreme Court of Victoria that the provision within the Local Government (Conflicting Duties) Act disqualifying electoral officers and ministerial advisors from being Councillors is inconsistent with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibility Act 2006.
- Invite councils and others to contribute to a newly created fund to assist the selected individual(s) in meeting the costs relating to the declaration.

An action would need to be taken by individuals not the Municipal Association of Victoria.

The MAV has sought support from Councils for the establishment of the fund to ensure the fundamental right to participate in public duties continues to be an equitable option for all community members.

It is understood that some individual Councils have made representations to the Minister for Local Government in relation to the Bill.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Nil.

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

The proposal to disqualify persons holding specified offices or positions from being Councillors is, on the surface, inconsistent with the Charter of Human Rights Responsibilities which protects a person's right to take part in public life.

In his second reading speech, the Minister for Local Government indicated that the proposed 'Bill is compatible with the human rights protected by the Charter because although it does limit one human right, the limitation is reasonable and proportionate. The limitations strike the correct balance by providing persons the right to take part in public life and preventing conflicts of interests in local government'.

### **Other**

Nil.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any vacancies in the office of Councillor arising from the Bill would require an election (count-back) to fill the vacancy on a Council.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

Monitor progress of the Bill and response from the local government sector and general community.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Local Government Act 1989

Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009

Investigation into the alleged improper conduct of councillors at Brimbank City Council - Ombudsman Victoria (May 2009)

*Cr. Tsitas returned to the meeting - 7.48pm.*

**8.2 ROAD ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

MINUTE NO. 292

**AUTHOR:** Senior Asset Analyst - Alan Marks**MANAGER:** Acting Manager Asset Strategy - Anita Craven**BUDGET  
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

The Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP) identifies and documents the practices and processes involved in managing Council's road assets. It also identifies gaps and improvement actions to Council's Road Asset Management practices

**CONSULTATION:**

Asset Management  
Capital Works  
Road Maintenance  
Finance  
Social Research Branch

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Morgan  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** Council receive and note the *Road Asset Management Plan* attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

**CARRIED****REPORT****BACKGROUND**

Victoria's 79 Councils are responsible for maintaining \$33.5 billion worth of aging infrastructure including roads, drainage, bridges, recreation facilities and buildings. There are two key challenges facing local governments in managing these assets:

- Funding the renewal of these assets so that they are maintained at a level that is acceptable to the community
- Developing the information and practices to support this.

The Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD), together with peak local government bodies, is delivering a range of initiatives to support Councils in their Asset Management responsibilities. This includes the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Advanced STEP program and the DPCD Asset Management Performance Measures Project.

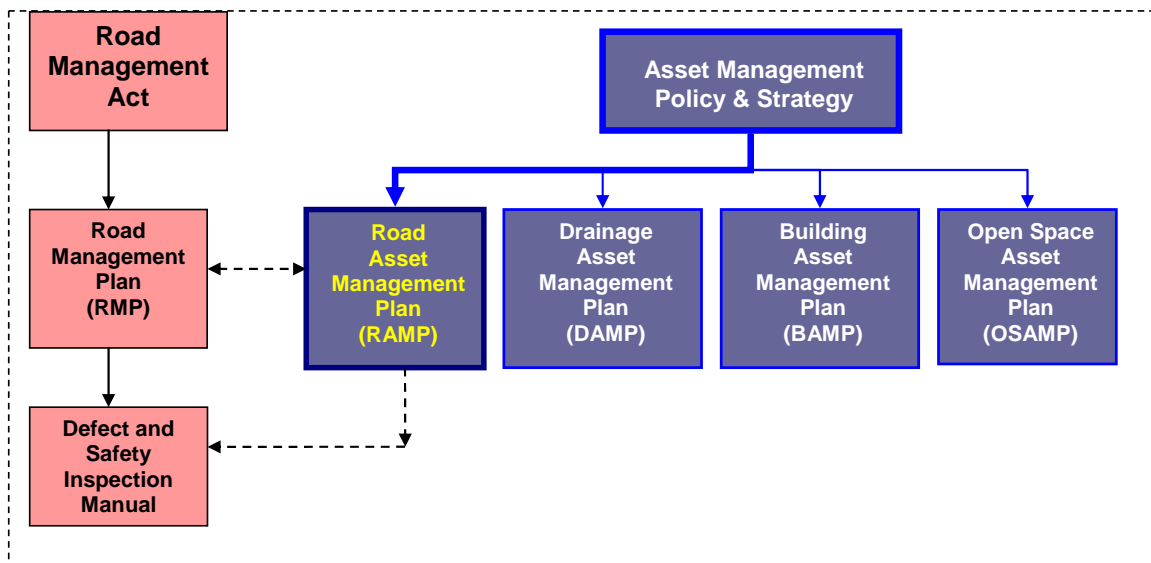
The development of Asset Management Plans was one of the key pillars of Council's Adopted Asset Management Strategy (2005) to identify the practices and processes involved in managing Council's assets and documenting them in the form of an Asset Management Plan. The Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP) is one of a suite of plans being developed across the organisation to address this action.

The production of this RAMP is a first attempt to address gaps and identify improvements to Council's road asset management practices. While this document provides a high level of detailed information on most road assets, at this stage, not all information is available to construct a comprehensive picture of Darebin's road assets. Future versions of the RAMP will progressively improve the quality of the information.

**CORE ISSUES**

**Asset and Road Management**

The RAMP is one of a suite of documents that relate to Asset and Road Management within the City of Darebin. Council's suite of documents outlines and directs the actions taken to manage and optimise Council's Road assets, on behalf of the community.



## Road Assets

A summary of Council's road assets included in the RAMP are provided in the following table and with a total value of \$387 million, account for almost 50% of Council's infrastructure and property assets:

Asset Subgroups	Quantity	Asset value at 30 June 2006	Expected Life	Comment
Roads - base	508.3 km	\$126,312,174	100 years	Roads in south have been in poor condition, catch up works required.
Roads – wearing course	508.3 km	\$109,883,869	25 years	
Kerb and channel	1013 km	\$51,864,544	70 - 80 years	In fair condition
Footpaths	1039.9 km	\$60,371,478	50 years	Improvement plan has addressed 2/3 of municipality, complete in 2 years
Laneways	98.6 km	\$7,944,359	100 years	In fair condition
Street signs	7202 No.	\$935,060		No information available on condition
Traffic treatments	1164 No.	\$17,699,180	50 years	In fair condition
Bridges	65 No.	\$5,328,900	90 – 100 years	In good condition
Public carparks	58,460 sq m	\$2,209,750		In fair condition
Line marking	10712 No.	N/A	3 years	No current valuation available
Public lighting owned by Council	500 No.	\$750,000	4 years	In fair condition
Off road bike paths	17,5 km	\$1,211,526	50 years	Reasonably new asset in good condition
Traffic signals	25 No.	\$2,500,000	20 years	No information available on condition
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$387,010,840</b>		

While the roads are currently in good condition, there is a large group of roads constructed in the 1960s that are now due for their second or third reseal and are showing signs of age and overstress due to the increase in traffic and legal axle loadings over that period. The road condition as measured by Pavement Condition Index (PCI) would quickly deteriorate if Council was to significantly reduce funding for road rehabilitation.

Funding decisions for road assets forms part of the annual budget process and reporting against funding of works on infrastructure assets (including Roads) occurs through the State of the Assets Report annually. The next State of the Assets Report is scheduled for October 2009.

## Key Findings

The following outlines the key findings from the RAMP:

### Condition of Assets

Council uses a comprehensive Pavement Management System (known as SMEC) to develop a long term program for road improvements. The system optimises the available funds based on a Benefit-Cost ratio using a model to minimise road maintenance and vehicle costs. For example, two roads of similar condition and underlying structure and substructure are prioritised based on the level of traffic using the road and minimising the vehicle operating costs. The road with the greater traffic volume will have a higher Benefit Cost ratio and will therefore be prioritised higher. Due to the changing



environment (both physical and political) the works program is reviewed every year. Within this analysis consideration is also given to any projected increases in the budgets, or other policy decisions affecting the road network.

The works carried out on Council's footpaths as part of the 'Steps to Improvement' program have improved the usability and condition of the footpath network in over 60% of the municipality.

#### Road Funding

Council, over the past decade, has made significant progress in addressing the backlog of road rehabilitation works that had built up in the south of the City. While there are still some backlog works required, over the coming 5 – 6 years, at the current level of funding, this backlog will be substantially complete.

This allows Council funding on roads to reduce, and to shift the focus to road resurfacing works that prevent the roads dropping in their condition. Based on current information, the predicted funding available for roads over the next ten years should enable Council to maintain the road network at the current condition.

#### Non-pavement Assets

Many of the non-pavement assets within the RAMP are relatively new and are considered to be in good condition. These assets, such as off road bike paths and line marking, will continue to grow as reliance on alternate transport nodes increases.

Council's bridges are in good condition and forecast expenditure over the future years primarily focuses on replacement of three bridges along the Merri Creek.

#### Public Transport

Significant improvement to Public Transport is necessary to reduce reliance on private motor vehicles. The provision of public transport is the responsibility of the State Government, however, Council has a role to play in influencing government. Council's Transport Strategy comprehensively outlines Council's approach to this area, and the actions outlined in this RAMP support Council's other transport initiatives.

#### Traffic Growth

Freight traffic is expected to double in the next twenty years. To avoid overcrowding on the existing road network viable alternate means of transport must be easily available to our residents. These should include public transport, bicycles, pedestrian links, etc., as detailed in the Transport Strategy.

This RAMP includes an improvement action, (number 6 below) related to monitoring High Productivity Vehicle proposals, which are expected to include higher allowable axle loads which will affect pavement life.

#### Peak Oil and Climate Change

Peak Oil is expected to reduce the size of private motor vehicles and introduce changes to the propulsion system, eg. electric or hybrid cars and may influence the number of cars using the road for some period of time. It will also increase the cost of petroleum based road making material. This will increase our costs, affecting our financial projections unless affordable alternatives are found.

Decreasing rainfall is anticipated to lead to increased cracking of roads on reactive soils. This may result in a shorter life for these pavements. Higher summer day temperatures will affect bituminous wearing courses. Anticipated higher rainfall intensity may require the use of roads to catch or hold water.

### Conclusion

In reviewing the information contained in the RAMP, it can be concluded that Darebin City Council is managing its road assets to a reasonable level, but faces significant challenges to keep the network at its present standard as the assets age. These include:

- Continuing to fund the backlog of works particularly in Northcote and completing these works over the next 5 to 6 years
- Keeping the road condition at reasonable levels
- Coping with the impacts of peal oil and climate change and implementing the improvements related to these issues
- Maintaining customer satisfaction
- Coping with traffic growth and higher load limits.

### **Improvement Actions**

The recommended improvement items are listed below. Further information is provided in Section 8.4 of the Road Asset Management Plan.

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1	Explore the benefits of whether entry roads, paths, staff and customer car parks associated with facilities such as Child Care Centres, Community Centres, etc., should be included in the next version of the Road Asset Management Plan or in the Building Asset Management Plan to make the best use of available resources and staff expertise	2010
2	Council is responsible for the road reserve 2.135 metres plus from the outer rails. To ensure a safe working environment, there is a need (and a legislative requirement) to complete Safety Interface Agreements with Rail Operators by 2010.	July 2010
3	For improved efficiency and effectiveness, complete Memorandums of Understanding setting out inspection, maintenance and replacement regimes for all boundary roads shared with adjoining Councils	2009
4	Reach MOU with service providers (water, gas, telecoms, etc.) detailing handling of other party assets, including rectification of any damages, reinstatements of Council's roads and footpath	Ongoing
5	Continue to review and consult with customers and stakeholders over service levels to ensure Council is meeting community requirements. See also Issue No. 11 below.	Ongoing
6	Monitor the High Productivity Vehicle proposals, including long term effect, for any effect on Council's local roads.	Over the next 2 years
7	Climate Change and Peak Oil will have a significant effect on Council's road assets. In conjunction with the Adaptation Strategy being developed, investigate changes that can be made to the way Council maintains and manages its road assets to cope with the environmental issues that are being projected.	Over the next 3 years
8	There are gaps in Council's asset information for non road pavement assets (eg. traffic signals, street signs, nature strips). To improve our database, there needs to be an improvement in data collection for non pavement assets.	Over the next 2 years
9	There are inconsistencies between the Laneway Plan and Policy. Revise the	Over the next 3

Issue No.	Description	Timeline
	Laneway Action Plan and the Right-of-Way and Road Closure Policy to improve their consistency with each other and this plan.	years
10	Utilise the Customer Asset Management System (CAMS) to provide improved data collection and enable a measure of maintenance effectiveness	Ongoing
11	Undertake a funding gap analysis for roads that considers the funds required for different levels of service, ie. a range of PCI's. This work will complement Issue No. 6 work regarding community views on acceptable service levels, and will assist council to refine future funding levels.	Over the next 2 years

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability

Environmental effects, such as peak oil, will affect the types of vehicles using local roads rather than the road network.

Additionally, capital works on Road Assets incorporate environmental sustainability practices, including:

- The use recycled concrete in drainage trenches where required in the specification in lieu of fine crushed rock.
- The use of recycled water where needed instead of potable water from fire hydrants.
- In order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions warm asphalt is specified rather than hot asphalt which reduces the green house gases by one third.
- Recycling stations are also used for reprocessing of asphalt and concrete and existing bluestones are being reused in the kerb and channel.

### Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Road Asset Management Plan (RAMP) seeks to ensure that Council's Road Assets fulfil their intended purpose, which includes providing equitable access and mobility for all sections of the community. This means managing and maintaining a high standard of service for the community of Darebin for their utilisation of Road Assets including roads, footpaths, street signage, line markings, off road bike paths, traffic signals, public carparks and bridges. Implementation of programs such as the Footpath to Improvement Program, seek to provide this high standard of service to the Darebin community.

Additionally, projects incorporating road intersections are generally reconstructed and where this occurs tactile markers are provided to comply with DDA requirements. Footpath irregularities are also removed during the works in order to provide a smooth and safe pedestrian access within the street in order to provide access for all.

### Other

Nil

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Implementation of RAMP Improvement Action Plan.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Road Asset Management Plan (attached – see **Appendix A**)
- Darebin Asset Management Strategy & Policy (2005)

**8.3 OPEN SPACE STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT 2009****MINUTE NO. 293****AUTHOR: Manager Open Space Planning - Allan Wicks****MANAGER: General Manager Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Ongoing capital works program****SUMMARY:**

Council adopted the current Open Space Strategy in 2008. This strategy resulted from a review of the previous strategy after 10 years of implementation. The 2009 annual report highlights projects being undertaken as part of implementing the Strategy. Projects include further strategy development, a series of capital works programs including numerous park Master Plans being implemented, playgrounds upgrades, the parks renewal program and works in the creek corridors concentrating on the off road shared path system.

**CONSULTATION:**

Consultation was undertaken as part of preparation of the Open Space Strategy and individual Park Master Plans that are highlighted in this report.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan****THAT:**

- (1) Council note this report on the progress of implementing the Open Space Strategy 2008.
- (2) An annual report be also prepared in 2010 to continue to highlight the progress of implementing this important strategy.

**CARRIED****REPORT****BACKGROUND**

Council adopted a new Open Space Strategy in 2008. The strategy is the major policy and planning document for Darebin's Open Space System. The strategy is intended to be active for 10 years and be reviewed after 5 years of use and implementation. The strategy is the major planning document for the Open Space Planning Branch and is a referral document for other sections of Council when dealing with Open Space issues. The priorities listed in the strategy form the basis for the capital works program submitted to Council for consideration.

The new strategy highlights the following:

There is over 800 hectares of open space in Darebin. There are 160 parks and reserves including a large number of Sports fields. 85 playgrounds are located in open space areas. Creek corridors including the Darebin, Merri, Edgars and Central Creek are an important part of the open space system. The overall quantity of open space in Darebin is good as is the distribution and therefore access for the community. However, some acquisition of land in strategic locations is recommended to improve access. The quality of open space in some areas needs improvement.

## **CORE ISSUES**

### **Strategy development**

#### ***Open Space Strategy***

The Open Space Planning Branch undertakes policy and strategy development in regard to Darebin's Open Space System. Having completed the Open Space Strategy and being adopted by Council in December 2008, the Branch then commenced one of the key recommendations of that strategy and has begun preparing a new Playspaces Strategy.

#### ***Playspaces Strategy***

The new Playspaces Strategy will review all playgrounds in open space areas and also include playspaces in Council-owned neighbourhood houses and child care centres. This strategy is in progress and a draft strategy is due to be released later in 2009. The new strategy will set principles and guidelines for playspaces and outline a priority listing of projects for inclusion in future capital works programs.

#### ***Streetscape Strategy***

A review of the Streetscape Strategy 'Greenstreets' is also underway. The current document has guided streetscape and street tree planting for the last ten years. This strategy is important in regard to Open Space Planning due to the importance of local streets providing access and linking up Darebin's Open Spaces. Safe and attractive streetscapes are important for our local community.

#### ***Creek corridors strategy***

Council is actively involved in the maintenance and management of the creek corridors in Darebin. Council is represented on the Darebin Creek Management Committee and the Merri Creek Management Committee. Council is also actively involved with the Edgars and Central Creek corridors. Council therefore participates in the development of strategies for these places. The Merri Creek and Environs Strategy was recently reviewed and a new strategy prepared by members of the management committee.

### **Capital works projects**

***H.P. Zwar Park Master Plan.*** The Master Plan was adopted by Council in 2008. Major works were carried out in the park with additional funding from the Federal Government Regional and Local Infrastructure fund added to Council's capital. This major refurbishment of the park included new paths, fencing, signage, playground, picnic shelter, tables, seating, lighting and planting. A circuit path around the oval was also included. Capital works \$287,000: Federal Grant \$277,000. The Master Plan is complete.

**Darebin Parklands Master Plan** was adopted by Council in October 2008. Stage one implementation has included preparation of a signage plan, including new entrance signs, dog management signs, new signs for the Spiritual Healing Trail designed and to be installed shortly. Interpretative signs are currently being designed. A working group is still involved with dog management issues in the park. Capital works \$50,000 for Signage. Stage two implementation of this master plan will continue in 2009-2010.

**T.W. Andrews Master Plan** was part of the **East Reservoir Neighbourhood Master Plan** which was adopted in 2008. The playground upgrade was completed and further works are programmed as part of stage 2 implementation. Capital works \$100,000.

**Edwardes Lake Park Master Plan.** The current master plan is undergoing staged implementation. The current year included some minor improvements to the Outlook Barbecue area. The major works consist of a new lighting system. This system is currently being installed and will be commissioned in the next few months. Capital works \$200,000.

**Playground Upgrades.** As part of implementing the playground strategy, playground upgrades were implemented in Stott Reserve, Penders Park and Tracey Reserve. Playground settings were also upgraded as part of this process including access paths, park furniture and planting. Capital works \$266,000.

**Regional and Local infrastructure funding** from the Federal Government was also used for park upgrades at Whitby Reserve, Rubie Thomson Reserve, Hillcroft Reserve and McComas Reserve. These projects are planned, partially completed and will be finished in the next couple of months. The Parks renewal program was combined with the funding from the Federal Government in the projects mentioned above.

**Penders Park Master Plan.** This Master Plan is also undergoing staged implementation. The playground was replaced in the current year as part of the playground capital works. Additional works were carried out on the shelter with increased roof area and additional picnic tables and planting.

**Shared path construction** off road. The major off road shared path system is part of the vision of the open space strategy. The Branch plays a lead role in planning and capital works programming for these paths. This year saw the opening of the Darebin Road underpass. This gap in the Darebin Creek trail existed for twenty years. Capital cost \$850,000 which included a grant for \$374,000 from Parks Victoria. A partnership with Moreland Council to build two bridges in Reservoir over the creek is also underway. These bridges are designed and have planning permits and are to be constructed in the current financial year. Planning is underway for the section of the Darebin Creek Trail between Tee Street and the Whittlesea boundary. It is anticipated that this will be completed in the current financial year. A grant has been applied for to build the connection from the Darebin Creek Trail into Bundoora Park under the latest Federal Government stimulus package.

### **Challenges for Council regarding Darebin's Open Space**

Whilst there have been many improvements to parks and open space areas achieved over the past year, there is an ongoing need to continue to maintain and upgrade existing assets. Parks planning will also need to continue to provide new and improved facilities in areas to meet changing community needs. For example the busy parks program is a new program this year concentrating on new facilities in existing parks. It is proposed to upgrade Mott Reserve this year under this program. The park which is a sporting reserve will have additional facilities to provide passive recreation opportunities for the local community. The off road shared paths along the creek corridors are part of the metropolitan trail system and are not yet complete.

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability

The planning, design and construction activities in open space areas is reflecting the change in conditions resulting from climate change. Tree and plant species selection is being modified in open space areas as irrigation is no longer feasible. Rain water gardens and other water retention features are being considered when planning new areas. Large mulched garden beds to preserve moisture and help control weeds continue to be used. Playgrounds and picnic facilities are being located near existing shade trees. Warm season turf is being introduced in sports fields and the use of grass types and other surface treatments is being reconsidered in passive recreation areas.

The purchase of park furniture and infrastructure is also changing. Green plate barbecues are being introduced that use less energy and new park lighting is using energy saving fittings.

### Social Inclusion and Diversity

The preparation of strategies and master plans continues to be undertaken with extensive community consultation. A wide variety of techniques are being used to endeavour to reach out and listen to our diverse community. Facilities being built are responding to the diverse needs of our community. All abilities access to parks and recreation areas is a normal part of planning and construction of new areas. Modifications are also being made in existing areas wherever possible.

### Other

The Open Space Strategy adoption and implementation links to the Council Plan in a number of ways.

Under the goal of Liveability and Regeneration the relevant strategy is: *We will continue the process of asset renewal and rejuvenation to ensure that our and large and varied asset base is improved so it can continue to meet community needs.*

With the goal of Celebration and participation the strategy most relevant is: *We will provide a network of spaces and places designed for both active and passive recreation opportunities.*

With Environmental Sustainability the relevant strategy being met is: *We will protect and improve the city's biodiversity, natural assets and wildlife corridors as well as promote and develop pride in the municipalities natural heritage areas and waterways.*

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### Capital allocation for the Open Space Strategy 2008-2009

Capital expenditure in Open Space  
Council \$1,261,000  
Grants of \$582,000  
Total \$1,843,000

### Capital expenditure for off road shared paths in 2008-2009

Council \$476,000  
Grants \$374,000  
Total \$850,000



**Capital allocation for the Open Space Strategy 2009-2010**

Capital expenditure in Open Space

Council \$1,412,000

Grants \$360,000

Total \$1,772,000

**Capital expenditure for off road shared path (joint project with Moreland to construct 2 bridges)**

Council \$372,000

Note: the above expenditure is for the Open Space Strategy implementation. Other expenditure listed under open space includes money for sports fields, sports infrastructure, street trees, streetscapes is not included.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

The Open Space Planning Branch is developing a long term capital works program based on the priorities in the Open Space Strategy. Data collection for the Customer Asset Management System will help planning decisions for parks renewal. The completion of the Playspaces Strategy will provide another key piece of long term planning and priorities for future capital works programs.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Open Space Strategy 2008

**8.4 AMENDMENT C87 BELL STREET STRATEGY  
CONSIDERATION OF PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION****MINUTE NO. 294****AUTHOR: Senior Strategic Planner – Kris Shaw****MANAGER: Acting General Manager City Development - Michael Ballock****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Nil****SUMMARY:**

Amendment C87 was prepared to implement the Bell Street Strategy. The Bell Street Strategy provides land use and urban design directions for the Bell Street corridor.

At its meeting on 22 December 2008, Council considered the Amendment C87 submissions and resolved to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent panel to consider the amendment and the submissions.

The panel hearing was held from 11-13 May 2009. The Panel's report was received on 20 July 2009 and its findings and recommendations are discussed in this report.

On the whole the Panel supports Amendment C87 and recommends some changes. This report considers the Panel's report and recommends that Amendment C87:

- Not be changed in response to the Panel's recommendations; and
- Be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval as exhibited with minor changes outlined in this report.

**CONSULTATION:**

Property owners and tenants, residents and key stakeholders including VicRoads were consulted during the preparation of the Bell Street Strategy. The draft Strategy was also placed on informal exhibition early in 2007 prior to the preparation of Amendment C87.

Amendment C87 to the Darebin Planning Scheme was on public exhibition from 7 February to 7 March 2008 in accordance with section 19 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Notice of the preparation of the Amendment was given to:

- Approximately 1300 property owners and tenants of properties with frontage to Bell Street and properties behind Bell Street
- Businesses that had contributed to the survey work for the East Preston industrial precinct economic assessment
- Prescribed Ministers and public authorities
- Banyule and Moreland City Councils.

A formal notice of the preparation of the Amendment appeared in the Victoria Government Gazette on 7 February 2008 and in the Preston and Northcote Leaders on 5 February 2008.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Chiang

**THAT:**

- (1) Having considered the Panel report, Council resolves to adopt Amendment C87 with changes outlined in this report in accordance with section 29(1) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.
- (2) Council submit Amendment C87 to the Minister for Planning for approval.

**CARRIED****REPORT****BACKGROUND**

Amendment C87 was prepared to implement the Bell Street Strategy. The Bell Street Strategy provides land use and urban design directions for the Bell Street corridor.

The Amendment:

- Makes changes to the Municipal Strategic Statement to implement the key land use and urban design objectives of the Bell Street Strategy 2006.
- Introduces a new local planning policy for land use in Bell Street.

Amendment C87 was exhibited between 7 February and 7 March 2008. A total of seven submissions were received. Five of the submissions were from statutory authorities who had no objection and two submissions were from landowners. The issues raised in the submissions from landowners related to use of the Dan Murphy's car park (149-153 Bell Street) and use of land within the East Preston industrial precinct for retail activities.

The submissions from landowners were heard by an independent panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

This report discusses the panel's recommendations and the next steps in the amendment process.

**CORE ISSUES**

The Bell Street project was initiated in part to resolve questions about the future land use role of the area of Bell Street east of Albert Street. Council had been asked by two landowners whether their sites could be developed for retail uses. This part of Bell Street was undergoing change as some large manufacturers such as Florsheim relocated and other large sites were subdivided to allow for smaller scaled industrial development. Bell Street bisects the East Preston industrial precinct and changes in Bell Street possibly reflect broader changes in the precinct. An economic assessment of the whole of the East Preston Industrial Precinct (EPIP) was undertaken in order to understand the future role of the eastern part of Bell Street.

Amendment C87 proposed to introduce a local planning policy to encourage restricted retail (bulky goods) in the existing cluster of retail uses west of Albert Street and to discourage restricted retail in the area east of Albert Street. Amendment C87 was exhibited between 7 February and 7 March 2008. A small number of submissions were received including a submission from the landowner of several key sites in the EPIP. The submission stated that there was no demand for large industrial sites in East Preston and that there was an undersupply of bulky goods retail in the area. Council decided on 22 December 2008 to refer the amendment and the submissions to an independent panel.

A two person panel hearing was conducted on 11-13 May 2009. Council presented expert evidence from Charter Keck Cramer (property analysts) on the supply and demand for industrial land and restricted retail.

19 Bell Street	1.9 hectares
23 Bell Street	2.2 hectares
29 Bell Street	3.0 hectares
90 Bell Street	1.9 hectares
85 Chifley Drive/1 Gower Street	8.5 hectares
<b>TOTAL</b>	17.5 hectares

Owners of the sites listed above presented evidence to the Panel. The evidence was that there was no demand for large industrial sites in East Preston and that Darebin had an excess supply of industrial land and an undersupply of land for bulky goods retail.

The Panel was asked to consider changes to the Amendment to encourage bulky goods retailing along Bell Street eastwards of Albert Street to the Darebin Creek and from Bell Street north along Chifley Drive to Northland.

Council's submission to the Panel was that:

- Restructuring of manufacturing has led to significant job losses in manufacturing in Darebin.
- There has been growth in the number of jobs in the wholesale and distribution sector in Darebin.
- The businesses in this sector choose to be in East Preston because of its amenity, its 'central' location to a skilled workforce and to customers. It costs more per square metre to be in Preston than it does to be in industrial areas further out of Melbourne.
- The businesses are small-medium size with demand for buildings of 500m<sup>2</sup>-3000m<sup>2</sup>.
- Most vacant industrial land in Darebin is located in Reservoir which provides low amenity.
- The land along Bell Street and between Bell Street and Northland provides higher amenity and the rate of development since 1989 shows that the location is one that is attractive to industrial businesses.
- The EPIP will continue to experience a transition from manufacturing to wholesale trade activities. This is expected to accelerate as continued gentrification of the precinct attracts businesses seeking an inner suburban location. The proximity of Northland to land north of Bell Street will attract labour intensive businesses seeking a higher amenity location.

- The desirability of the EPIP as an industrial location has been demonstrated by the presence of high profile national organisations that have invested in modern head office/distribution facilities, the presence of innovative businesses such as Waivestar and Clifton Productions in Chifley Drive and the ongoing development of contemporary industrial facilities to accommodate a new generation of businesses.
- The longer-term sustainability of the EPIP will be supported by its proximity to the Melbourne CBD and Melbourne's freeway network, a scarcity of comparably located industrial development opportunities, proximity to the amenity and services offered by Northland, continued demand from businesses in Yarra that are displaced by apartment and office development and demand from new businesses established by residents within Melbourne's inner north.
- An increase in retail floorspace is probably supportable but the amount of floorspace is questionable. There is currently vacant floorspace in the Bulk Centre, a space at the rear of the Homemaker Centre (fronting onto Gower Street) and at the redeveloped Optus building (on the south-eastern corner of Chifley Drive and Gower Street).

### Summary of Panel report

The following is a summary of the key findings of the Panel:

- The proposal to rezone the Dan Murphy's car park needed further strategic assessment of the site and consideration of appropriate planning tools (possibly a Design and Development Overlay) and would need notice to be provided to surrounding properties under the provisions of the Planning and Environment Act.
- The Panel accepted 'that the EPIP is a strategically important, relatively intact area of industrial land deserving of some level of protection via the planning system'.
- 'The general intention of the existing planning framework to protect the EPIP is acknowledged and supported.'
- 'Some of the provisions in the amendment that seek to strongly support only industrial uses along Bell Street to the exclusion of other uses are not supported.'
- The Panel agreed that the area had the potential to generate employment and trying to support employment growth was 'a worthy aim'. The Panel thought that generating employment 'via a mix of uses' might be a better solution.
- The Panel recommended that Council undertake further strategic planning work in relation to the Northland Principal Activity Centre and the area bounded by Bell Street, Albert Street and the Darebin Creek (led by a review of the Industrial Land Use Strategy).
- The Panel considered that there may be further opportunities for restricted retail along Bell Street between Albert Street and Chifley Drive but the strategic picture on this issue is far from clear. 'Thus restricted retail should not be actively encouraged but should be not be actively discouraged as suggested in the amendment.'
- The Panel recommended:
  - That the statement in the proposed Bell Street Land Use local policy about discouraging restricted retail east of Albert Street be removed.
  - That the Economic Assessment of the EPIP by Charter Keck Cramer not be made a reference document to the planning scheme.

**Council's response****Introducing retail uses into industrial areas**

The Panel suggested that Council consider allowing for a mix of retail and industrial uses in the EPIP.

Council's policy is to encourage diversity of economic activity and employment and increased jobs in Darebin. Darebin has lost about 4500 jobs in the municipality since the 1970s, most of these have been through the loss of manufacturing jobs.

Council has carried out employment surveys of industrial businesses in the EPIP and the Northland Homemaker Centre. The sorts of businesses located in the northern part of the EPIP support up to three times the number of jobs provided in businesses located in the homemaker centre. The types of jobs offered by industry are also more varied and rely on a range of skills.

The reason why it is important to protect industrial areas from bulky goods uses is that the use of land for retail affects the value of land which then affects rental prices. A property owner could expect to get up to twice the amount of rent per square metre for a retail property compared to an industrial property. So while a mix of industrial and retail uses can work in a functional sense, there is no incentive for landowners to encourage industrial development or tenants when it is more profitable to have retail tenants. The affect of introducing more retail uses into the area is likely to be that industrial businesses would be priced out of the area.

Council in some ways has to choose to discourage retail uses in the area so that land and rental prices are reflective of an industrial area or allow the area to change to a bulky goods precinct that stretches from Bell Street between Albert Street and Chifley Drive and north along Chifley Drive to Northland.

**Supply of bulky goods retail floorspace in Preston**

The proponents for expanded retail floorspace in Preston are arguing that an extra 32,000m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace is needed to enable Preston to compete with other homemaker centres being developed within the region and to provide Darebin residents the choice and convenience of having access to all the main bulky goods brands.

Within the established clusters in Bell Street west of Albert Street and at the Homemaker Centre, Murray Road and Chifley Drive, it is estimated that Preston has a current provision of 74,411m<sup>2</sup> of bulky goods retail floor space. The main submitter to the panel suggested that Preston has a current undersupply of between 7.0 and 8.7 hectares of bulky goods land and that figure could be expected to increase to up to 11.3 hectares by 2016. 11.3 hectares of land could be expected to support approximately 56,500m<sup>2</sup> of retail floorspace.

Previous panels have acknowledged that there is a difference between what additional retail floorspace is 'needed' and what is 'supportable'.

Council's position is that more retail floor space might be supportable but that bulky goods should be planned for and supplied on a regional basis. Bulky goods shopping is not the type of shopping that is done on a daily or weekly basis and people are generally more prepared to travel to access this type of shopping. At the moment there is vacant bulky goods floorspace in Preston. Council has also identified and the Panel has acknowledged that there are opportunities for more floorspace at the Stafford Ellison site on the north-western corner of Gower Street and Chifley Drive, the Sony Ericsson site in Bell Street and the opportunity for multi-level redevelopment of sites in the existing cluster of retail businesses in Bell Street, west of Albert Street.

Where there is competition for land as is the case in the northern part of the EPIP and Bell Street (east of Albert Street), Council has to plan for long-term net community benefit. Council decided in December 2008 that the net community benefit would be greater if land in the EPIP was used for industrial businesses because:

- Those businesses provide more jobs per square metre than bulky goods retail
- The businesses support more indirect jobs. Industrial businesses are more likely to buy goods and services within the local area compared to bulky goods retailers who are typically franchise businesses which receive operational support from a central location. For example, Harrop Engineering in the Preston Business Park on Bell Street buys goods and services from approximately 50 businesses within the 3072 postcode area.
- The businesses employ a variety of employees with skills that are more in line with Darebin residents
- The businesses provide diversity of economic activity and diversity of employment opportunities.

#### **Recommendation to do additional strategic land use studies**

The data that informed the Economic Assessment of the EPIP by Charter Keck Cramer was updated in preparation for the planning panel hearing. Employment surveys were carried out late last year and earlier this year. Council officers have contact with industrial businesses in the area and receive information about changes in the area, sites that have been sold and new businesses that have established in the area. The Bell Street Strategy and the Economic Assessment report are up-to-date and reflect the current economic and policy environment. Reviewing the Industrial Land Use Strategy now would not provide Council with any new data and therefore not lead to a different policy position.

#### **Advice from the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD)**

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development which is the key agency for economic development in Victoria wrote to Council in April 2009 to say that:

Particularly in the current economic circumstances DIIRD considers that it is important to retain, and where possible enhance the supply and amenity of industrial and employment land in metropolitan Melbourne. The City of Darebin's actions to protect existing industrial zoned land east of Albert Street and provide the policy framework for the types of land uses to be permitted in that area are therefore welcomed.

#### **Advice from the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD)**

Late last year the DPCD released *Melbourne @ 5 million* as an update to *Melbourne 2030*. It stated that the Victorian Government would be expanding the urban growth boundary and focussing on 6 Central Activity Districts and 3 employment corridors. A corridor running between Monash University/Chadstone to Box Hill, Austin Hospital and Bell Street was one of those corridors that will be given priority attention by the State government.

In April the DPCD advised that Bell Street, East Preston forms part of the employment corridor. The policy for these corridors is to increase employment and uses that support lower employment densities such as bulky goods retail would not be preferred uses in these areas.

**Conclusion**

The Panel report does not discuss:

- Net community benefit (potential for diversity of economic development and employment activity)
- *Melbourne @ 5 million* (development of bulky goods in an employment corridor is not a preferred outcome)
- Other State Government planning policies such as ‘out of centre’ development which encourages commercial and retail activities to locate in activity centres with access to public transport and shared car parking.

It is recommended:

- That changes recommended by the submitters that seek to change Council’s policy position of not encouraging retail uses in the EPIP not be supported.
- That a number of minor changes be made to the exhibited Amendment. The report to Council on 22 December 2008 considered submissions to the Amendment and recommended that a number of minor changes be made to make it clear that the proposed changes to the planning scheme ‘discourage’ particular uses rather than having the capacity to ‘prevent’ those uses. Also the panel considered a number of other changes that were recommended to avoid duplicating policy statements that are already in the planning scheme.
- That Amendment C87 be adopted as exhibited (with minor amendments discussed above) and be submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS****Environmental Sustainability**

Amendment C87 encourages redevelopment of under-utilised land for industry and the growth of jobs in the municipality that will provide opportunities for residents to work within the municipality.

**Social Inclusion and Diversity**

This Amendment has no ‘social inclusion and diversity’ implications.

**Other**

Amendment C87 is consistent with the following goal and strategic indicator from the Council Plan:

*Liveability and Regeneration*

We will undertake considered and proactive land use planning that is responsive to the community’s changing needs and reflects the ongoing development of our city and our place within wider Melbourne.

*Strategic indicators*

The City of Darebin’s planning decisions will be made in accordance with sound planning policy.



**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Submit Amendment C87 to the Minister for Planning for approval.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Bell Street Strategy 2006
- Darebin Industrial Land Use Strategy
- East Preston Industrial Precinct: Economic Assessment 2006
- Council report – 1 August 2005
- Council report – 2 April 2007
- Council report – 20 August 2007
- Council report – 22 December 2008
- Darebin Amendment C87 Panel report (15 July 2009)

*Note: Council had earlier resolved that the following report (Report Item 8.5) be brought forward and be the first report considered by the Council.*

## **8.5 DAREBIN WOMEN'S FORUM**

**MINUTE NO. 295**

**AUTHOR:** Coordinator, Social Policy - Mandy Bathgate

**MANAGER:** Manager, Social Inclusion and Diversity Branch - John Smith

### **BUDGET**

**IMPLICATIONS:** To be determined.

### **SUMMARY:**

This report details next steps in developing Council's strategic commitment to 'work to support the right of women to fully and equally engage and participate in the life of the community' (Darebin Council Plan 2009-2013). The report includes outcomes of the Darebin Women's Forum to investigate the establishment of a Darebin Women's Advisory Committee.

### **CONSULTATION:**

- Women's Forum participants – including community members, agency representatives and Council Officers
- General Manager, Communities and Culture
- Gender Equity Working Group members
- Convenor, Darebin Women's Advisory Committee

## **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. Laurence

**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

### **THAT:**

- (1) Council note the directions outlined in this report to increase engagement of women through the development of suitable participatory structures.
- (2) A development phase be implemented so that these structures and models, including the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee and annual Women's Forums, can be explored and further refined to ensure meaningful inclusion, representation and participation by women across Darebin.
- (3) Council commits to conducting a Darebin Women's Forum in March 2010.
- (4) Council endorse the Role Description for the Convenor of the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee attached as **Appendix C** to this report.

**CARRIED**

## REPORT

### BACKGROUND

This report outlines directions and activities in relation to the proposed development of suitable engagement structures, including a new Darebin Women's Advisory Committee, to support women's participation and engagement. This activity forms part of the broader community engagement, social inclusion and diversity commitments of Council.

Council is committed to greater inclusion, representation and participation in local democracy by women across Darebin through advocacy, community engagement and community education.

Fundamental to this commitment is working to ensure structures and participatory models that are developed, effectively support access and inclusion for all women and are strategically aligned to Council's gender equity, human rights, social inclusion and diversity commitments.

The Darebin Women's Forums, held on 27 and 30 July 2009, signalled the commencement of this process, bringing local women together to identify issues that matter for women in the community and gaining feedback in relation to the development of a new Darebin Women's Advisory Committee. Promotion of the Forums was Darebin-wide including through a mail-out, display of flyers across libraries, Customer Service Centres, organisational and program email networks, intranet, internet and via local media.

At its meeting on 20 July 2009, Council nominated Rae Kingsbury as the Convenor for the Women's Advisory Committee and Mary Crooks from the Victorian Women's Trust was selected to facilitate the forums; the Mayor Councillor Diana Asmar hosted the events on behalf of Council. It is intended that Rae Kingsbury will continue to convene the Advisory Committee and to represent Council in that capacity. A role description for the Convenor is set out in **Appendix C** attached to this report and Council endorsement of this role description is sought through this report.

A total of 108 women made up of residents, community members, organisational representatives, business and Council Officers attended the two Forums. A full evaluation of the both Forums, including demographic profile of participants is currently being finalised. Feedback to date has been positive, with the Forums being successful in providing a platform for dialogue between Darebin women and Council and paving the way for ongoing engagement around women's issues. It is recommended that these Public Forums are conducted on a regular basis to support ongoing civic engagement of women within our community.

### CORE ISSUES

#### Outcomes of the Forums

The following section provides a brief summary of outcomes. See **Appendices A and B**: Forum Notes for further detail.

**Northcote Forum – Monday 27 July 2009, 9.30am - 12.30pm**

A total of 59 women attended the first Darebin Women’s Forum at the Northcote Town Hall. Fifty-three contact forms were completed with the following suburbs represented.

Westgarth	-
Northcote	12
Fairfield	2
Alphington	-
Thornbury	4
Preston	6
Reservoir	11
Bundoora	-
City of Darebin Staff	3
Other	5

The following issues were identified as key priorities by participants:

- Local representation – preparing training and growing women onto Council
- Childcare (enough and affordable)
- Communication tools – how to include all cultures/communities
- Community connections, fostering connections and importance of informal networks
- Having a Women’s Centre/Hub in Darebin
- Domestic Violence – linkage across all areas
- Safety – security, including at home
- Housing including affordability/built space/design
- Same sex relationships
- Women’s’ health – access to basic services/ educational awareness, empower young women and newly arrived communities - ‘How can I?’
- Advocacy
- Health (chronic)
- Having a celebration forum
- Ensuring an integrated approach
- Transport – isolated older people
- Food security.

**Preston Forum, Thursday 30 July 2009, 7.00pm – 9.00pm**

A total of 49 women attended the first Darebin Women’s Forum held at the Preston Shire Hall

Thirty-nine contact forms were completed with the following suburbs represented.

Westgarth	--
Northcote	10
Fairfield	1
Alphington	-
Thornbury	11
Preston	10
Reservoir	1
Bundoora	-
Kingsbury	1
Other	5

The following issues were identified as key priorities by participants:

- Community hub for women eg. a Women's drop in Centre near Preston Market
- Safe place for women
- Public space – precinct development, safe, clean, beautiful
- Housing and development – costs/public housing/over development/inappropriate development
- Social Isolation
- Mental Health
- Domestic violence
- Aging
- Transport – public/connections/safety
- Participation in public life – eg. establishing a Darebin Emily's List
- Access to education
- Environment – lots of good stuff happening. Let's show and let others know eg. Sustainability Street
- Community connectedness neighbourhood groups/more information about services/annual public street parade/concept of exchange/Sharehood
- Women with disabilities
- Young women
- Economic participation (financial literacy)
- Diversity – not losing it/seeing change in diversity/recognising Gay and Lesbian communities and needs of women from diverse backgrounds
- Access to female GPs
- Indigenous women – inclusion in other services and education
- Access to legal services
- Childcare - availability
- Role of Council – ethical standards
- Lot's of good stuff happening – it is important to recognise the positive.

Information gathered will be used to inform the development of the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee and exploration of other suitable models, such as a regular series of women's forums.

It is recommended that the Committee structure remain open to maximise women's participation and continued canvassing of ideas. This would include identifying gaps and co-opt of members if it appeared certain sections of the community did not have a voice. Ongoing connection with the Darebin community and opportunity for strategic input and communication will be a continuing priority.

#### Structure of the Committee

The Gender Equity Working Group in Council has considered a range of different models for the Committee for the next twelve months, which should be seen as a period of establishment for the Committee. It is recommended that a very open structure be maintained for that period to ensure that:

1. All women who wish to participate in the process are provided with an opportunity to do so;
2. Sufficient time is allowed for women to explore the most appropriate ongoing governance model for the Advisory Committee; and
3. Systems to connect the Committee to Council and the broader community are fully established.

On this basis, it is envisaged that a series of open committee meetings will be called over the next twelve months with a view to working through both issues of structure and the key issues raised by forum participants. The meetings will be chaired by the Committee Convenor, Rae Kingsbury.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

This initiative has implications for the Darebin Council's Climate Change Action Plan in relation to climate change impact on women and their families. It also has policy implications regarding existing and potential sustainability responses that are being developed by women within local communities. This includes both newly emerging and established communities across life spectrums.

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

This activity is aligned to Darebin Human Rights and Darebin Social Inclusion Frameworks; Gender Equity, the Darebin Diversity Policy and Council's broader commitment to respect community diversity and wellbeing addressing isolation, disadvantage, inequity and exclusion faced by many women in our community.

### **Other**

Darebin City Council Plan 2009-2013 sets out Council's strategic commitment:

*We will work to support the right of women to fully and equally engage and participate in the life of the community.*

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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- Direct cost of Women's Forums: \$ 3,046
- There will ongoing financial implications associated with resourcing of this initiative including officer time, administration, catering, venue etc.

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

### **Developmental stage**

Establishment of the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee to carry this work forward and refine proposed structures and modes. This includes consideration and response to Women's Forum feedback. Participation would be open to women who work, live or study in Darebin.

Darebin Women's Forum March 2010.

### **Operational Phase**

Participatory models refined to support effective democratic participation and engagement by women in Darebin.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Council Report, 20 April 2009
- Summary Notes – Darebin Women's Forum 27 July 2009
- Summary Notes – Darebin Women's Forum 30 July 2009
- Draft Role Description – Convenor, Darebin Women's Advisory Committee

**8.6 DAREBIN ARTS ADVISORY FORUM****MINUTE NO. 296****AUTHOR: Manager Arts and Culture - Mark Wilkinson****MANAGER: General Manager Communities and Culture - Jan Black****BUDGET  
IMPLICATIONS: Nil****SUMMARY:**

This report proposes to establish an overarching arts advisory committee to replace several single focus arts advisory committees – the Darebin Arts Advisory Forum.

**CONSULTATION:**

Northcote Town Hall Advisory Committee  
Darebin Community and Kite Festival Committee

**RECOMMENDATION****THAT** Council:

- (1) Establish the *Darebin Arts Advisory Forum* with a view to providing Council with advice on arts practice and community cultural development in the municipality.
- (2) Nominate Councillors (to be advised) to convene the Forum.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy**  
**SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan****THAT** Council:

- (1) Establish the *Darebin Arts Forum* with a view to providing Council with advice on arts practice and community cultural development in the municipality.
- (2) Nominate Crs. Greco and McCarthy to convene the Forum.

**CARRIED**



**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

The Arts and Culture Branch has always been keen on engaging with stakeholders in a meaningful way through a range of advisory committees and steering groups. Until recently the Branch convened two advisory committees: the Darebin Community and Kite Festival Committee and the Darebin Music Feast Committee and several steering groups: the Carols In All Nation Committee, the Ganesh Chaturthi Steering Group, and the Northern Notes Writers Steering Committee. The Branch also establishes a new reference group to steer each public art project. The difference between an advisory committee and a steering group is that a steering group takes a more 'hands on' role in delivering an event or program. Indeed the event could not be delivered without the 'hands on' involvement. For example the steering group for Carols in All Nations consists of a representative from Darebin City Brass that provides the music, representatives from various churches that organise the Christmas market stalls and representatives from the choirs.

Another committee that was not convened by the Arts and Culture Branch, but included a focus on cultural activities was the Northcote Town Hall Advisory Group. Following a review, and given the full operation of the Town Hall, it was decided that this committee in its current form would not continue. The idea of establishing a broader arts committee was canvassed by this group and met with general approval.

**CORE ISSUES**

Significant structural and operational changes have impacted on the Arts and Culture's two advisory committees and the Northcote Town Hall Advisory Group. The Darebin Community and Kite Festival Committee was originally formed when running the Darebin Festival was contracted out and the Committee's primary role was to annually select a contractor and oversee the contract to ensure good community input. With the decision some years back to bring management of the festival back 'in-house' this role for the committee was no longer primary.

The Darebin Music Feast Committee has similarly undergone a significant change. The Committee was established to help restructure the Feast from a weekend event in the Northcote Town Hall to a two week 'whole of municipality' event when the Town Hall closed for redevelopment. Since the format for this event has been established the Music Feast Committee has had less to do. Similarly the group set up to advise on the redevelopment of the Northcote Town Hall did not need to continue in that role once the Town Hall was fully operational.

This is not to say that advice to Council is now unnecessary in these areas; it simply means that the regularity of the need for advice specific to these areas of arts and cultural services has moderated.

As most things in the arts are quite dynamic, Council's Arts & Culture Branch is facing some major challenges. Among the most pressing challenges are:

- Implementing a progressive and ambitious Arts Plan;
- Broadening the general reach of community cultural development and promoting participation to support well-being, though social inclusion, economic development and environmental sustainability;
- Ensuring professional and community arts practice is prominent throughout the municipality; and,

- Ensuring the sustainability of current and future arts and cultural initiatives, artistically, economically, socially and environmentally.

In order to make headway on these challenges Council needs to involve the professional arts community and the residents and others enthusiastic about community cultural development.

In establishing an advisory group for the arts in Darebin it would be difficult to create a compact representative committee because of the diversity of arts practice in the municipality and the enthusiasm and interest many residents show for the arts. As the role of this group is advisory it would seem best for it to be able to canvass a broad range of ideas, therefore the recommendation is to establish an open forum structure initially made up by inviting participants from the three advisory committees that have wound up and the community members that were involved in supporting the development of the current arts strategy and also by advertising for participants. Once convened it would be appropriate for this group to look at gaps in make up and co-opt members if it appeared certain sections of the arts community did not have a voice.

The group should meet a least four times a year and also have the scope to form smaller working parties that would meet on particular issues or projects as the need arose. The Forum should also establish ways in which it can be further informed about the key themes and issues in the arts and community cultural practice within the local area. This may involve, for example, holding a broad reaching 'Arts Summit' to draw out these themes and issues. The Forum would be supported by the Arts and Culture Branch staff and engage other Branches of Council focussed on arts and cultural activities such as Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre and the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.

The Darebin Arts Advisory Forum would not circumvent the valuable work of the Arts and Culture steering committees which are essential to delivering Council's Arts and Culture program.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

No significant implications as regards environmental sustainability.

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

The right of participation in the cultural life of the community is guaranteed in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Council, through its arts and cultural plan, encourages everyone to participate in arts and cultural activities. Certain groups, because of social, economic, geographical or ethno-cultural factors may require additional support and encouragement to participate. These include Australia's Indigenous peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with a disability and other groups. *Enabling these groups to participate actively in the development and management of artistic and cultural activities initiated by Council fosters their capacity to be active citizens.* Enabling them to initiate and carry out their own activities aids self-determination.

**Other**

This proposal delivers on a number of aims in Council's current arts strategy: *Making Art, Darebin City Council Arts & Cultural Plan 2008-2011*:

- *Aim:* Ensure that Council is a leader in arts and cultural activities by encouraging innovation and experimentation in projects developed or supported by Council. *Action:* Create forums and other specific opportunities for productive cultural debate to take place and for the promotion of the value of arts and cultural activities in community and civic life.
- *Aim:* Promote a collaborative approach to arts and cultural development, both within Council and with outside agencies.
- *Aim:* Promote participation in the arts and cultural activities as a means to enhance individual and community well-being.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Establish the Forum and convene the first meeting before the end of September 2009.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Draft Terms of Reference – see **Appendix A**.

**8.7 APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE DAREBIN  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTE NO. 297**

**AUTHOR:** Coordinator Indigenous Policy and Programs - Troy Austin

**MANAGER:** Manager Social Inclusion and Diversity - John Smith

**BUDGET  
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil.

**SUMMARY:**

This report recommends the appointment of two new members to the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC). The process for selection of the new appointments is outlined and the reasons for recommendations provided. Some comments are made about ways to improve the process for selection in the future.

**CONSULTATION:**

DATSCC Community Members (regarding the process)  
Nominated DATSICC Selection Panel

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. G. Greco  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT:**

- (1) Council note the resignation of Ms Vicki Clark from Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC).
- (2) Council appoint Mr Mikael Smith and Ms Diedre King to DATSICC.
- (3) The Mayor write to all those who applied for membership and invite them to attend a Council dinner to acknowledge their work in the community and interest in the activities of Council.
- (4) Council note that those who were not able to be appointed will be invited to participate in other Council committees.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****BACKGROUND***Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council*

The Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC) is a Special Committee of Council appointed, pursuant to section 86 of the Local Government Act 1989, to undertake activities to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Darebin and provide advice to Council about issues relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the City of Darebin.

It was established in 2002 and its duties are:

- To participate in all relevant Council program and policy development initiatives
- To be educational – an advisor on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social, spiritual and cultural issues to Council and the community
- To develop and maintain strong relationships with Council and the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community – so as to be a bridge between Council and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Darebin
- To nurture the new generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in Darebin by encouraging participation in the governance processes
- To oversee the development of cross cultural awareness programs for Council staff, local businesses and services
- To increase the visibility of language, symbols and signs in Darebin to ensure a visible presence of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in the municipality
- To increase the awareness of the living Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture in Darebin
- To increase the use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander personnel at all levels of Council
- To improve access to Council services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and work to improve the cultural relevance and appropriateness of all Council services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- To initiate, promote and monitor projects that assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Darebin
- To ensure the maintenance of the existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Darebin by advocating for affordable housing, employment and improved health and community care
- To advocate on the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Darebin.

The process for the appointment of DATSICC community members was established by Council resolution on 3 June 2002. Expressions of Interest are publicly advertised from Darebin Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community members, ie. those who live, work or study in the municipality, who would wish to be appointed by Council to membership of DATSICC. The *Local Government Act 1989* specifies that members to a Special Committee must be appointed by Council. Membership of the Special Committee is selected by Council from available nominees and based on the following criteria:

- Availability to participate

- Balance of representation with regard to gender and age
- Balance of representation between those who live, work and study in the City
- Balance of experience in serving on Boards or involvement in organisations.

## CORE ISSUES

### *Current Vacancies and Selection Process*

In May 2009, DATSICC approved a formal selection process to fill two vacancies in the membership of the current committee. The vacancies arose as a result of a shortfall of nominations in the committee at the beginning of the year together with the resignation of one member, Ms Vicki Clark in May this year.

The DATSICC approved selection process required the formation of a Selection Panel made up of the DATSICC Co-Chairs, the Mayor and the General Manager, Communities and Culture. The Selection Panel process was developed to ensure DATSICC involvement in the process.

Expressions of Interest for the two vacancies were called at the end of June 2009 and closed at the end of July 2009. Advertisements were placed in the local newspapers and notices distributed widely among the community. Six responses were received in response to the call for Expressions of Interest.

In the absence of DATSICC Co-Chairs, the Coordinator, Indigenous Policy and Programs canvassed Committee members in the last week of July 2009 and early August 2009 to ask for DATSICC representatives on the Selection Panel. Ms Deborah Walsh and Mr Reg Blow were selected through this process.

The Coordinator, Indigenous Policy and Programs convened a Selection Panel consisting of these two members, the Mayor and the General Manager, Communities and Culture. Unfortunately, the Mayor was ill on the day of selection and Mr Blow did not attend. The Coordinator, Indigenous Policy and Programs contacted Mr Phil Cooper, Interim DATSICC Chair, who advised that the Selection Panel should continue with Ms Walsh and Ms Black entrusted with the responsibility of making a recommendation to Council regarding the vacancies.

### *Selection Outcomes*

The Panel was pleased with the diversity of applicants for the vacancies and noted that the response represented the greatest number of responses for vacancies for DATSICC since the Committee's inception in 2002.

The characteristics of the respondents were:

- Four women and two men
- All Aboriginal, one of whom who is also a Torres Strait Islander
- Ranging in age from twenty three years to fifty seven years
- All committed to attending DATSICC meetings as required
- Five work in Darebin, four were Darebin residents
- A very wide range of experience including work and representation in the areas of Justice, Youth, Business, Women's issues, Community Development and Elders support.

The Panel considered the need to increase the number of women on DATSICC as only three of the current nine members are female. The panel also noted discussion about the possible formation of a Darebin Indigenous Women's Group under the aegis of the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee and DATSICC. The panel decided to recommend the appointment of one female and one male to DATSICC to bring the gender balance to four females and seven males.

The Panel committed to ensuring that all of those who applied were fully acknowledged and thanked for their commitment and to work with each applicant to ensure that their participation in Council can be facilitated and supported.

The panel recommends that Ms Diedre King and Mr Mikael Smith be appointed to DATSICC for the current term of the Committee.

- Ms Diedre King has a wealth of professional experience and a history of considerable involvement with Council. Ms King currently participates actively in the Home and Community Care Aboriginal Liaison Officer (HALO) Steering Committee. She has extensive experience working in the local Indigenous Community and sits on numerous committees and networks across the local community and at the State level.
- Mr Mikael Smith has a wealth of professional experience ranging within the Indigenous community, in local government and in private business. Mikael has strong networks in all these sectors that will support and advance Darebin Council policies and projects. His appointment to DATSICC will broaden the diversity of experience on the Committee.

#### *Improvements to the process*

The Selection Panel noted that the selection process could be strengthened by:

- Providing local information sessions to encourage prospective members to discuss the benefits of being involved in Council decision making.
- Undertaking background and refereree checks on prospective members
- Development of a Register of Interested People to enable members of the community to apply for membership of Council committees at any time.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Nil.

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

Participation of members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Council decision making is clearly in line with Darebin's Human Rights and Darebin Social Inclusion Frameworks. Issues of gender equity and diversity were taken into account in making these decisions.

### **Other**

The appointment of members to DATSICC supports Council's promise that ...*"As a democratic and accountable local government, we will strive in all that we do to achieve fairness, through innovative and progressive leadership that respects and reflects our diverse community."*

In particular, DATSICC and the DATSICC process supports the Council goal around Leadership and Engagement, being: *“Our goal is to actively engage all members of Darebin’s diverse community - listening, inviting participation and responding to issues of concern. We will provide informed and unambiguous leadership on matters of strategic importance. We will foster a culture of open and accountable governance.”*

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Within Budget

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Each of those who applied will be contacted and invited to attend a Council dinner to thank them for their involvement. Other opportunities for participation will be discussed with them at this time.

Induction and training will be arranged for new members

New members will attend their first DATSICC meeting on 2 September 2009.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

DATISICC Committee Charter December 2008

DATSICC Minutes, 6 May 2009



**9. URGENT BUSINESS**

Nil.

**10. GENERAL BUSINESS**

*Cr. Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in the following matter classifying the type of interest as a direct interest and the nature of the interest as that his private medical practice may be affected by the proposals to establish medical clinics contained in the 'A Healthier Future for all Australians' report. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 8.10pm.*

**10.1 SUBMISSION TO NATIONAL HEALTH AND HOSPITAL REFORM COMMISSION****MINUTE NO. 298****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. G. Greco  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. Laurence

**THAT** Council Officers prepare a submission to the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission which identifies both the risks and opportunities for Council through the reforms detailed in the 'A Healthier Future for all Australians' report.

**CARRIED**

*Cr. Chiang returned to the meeting – 8.16pm.*

**10.2 LOCAL AREA TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT STUDY – BENAMBRA STREET PRESTON****MINUTE NO. 299****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Morgan  
**SECONDED:** Cr. V. Fontana

**THAT** Council Officers conduct a Local Area Traffic Management Study around Benambra Street Preston. Particular attention needs to be paid to the investigation of a 'No Right Turn' sign from Gilbert Road into Benambra Street. Council officers to consult residents of Benambra Street as to their views on the installation of a 'No Right Turn' sign and other traffic management measures. Officers to advise residents that matter was raised at the Council meeting on 17 August 2009.

**CARRIED**

**11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL****CLOSE OF MEETING**

**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. Laurence

**THAT** in accordance with section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to contractual matters:

- 11.1 Tender for the Reconstruction of Bird Avenue, Northcote – CT 20094
- 11.2 Tender for the Reconstruction of Bent Street, Northcote – CT 20091
- 11.3 Lease of Fitness Equipment for Reservoir Leisure Centre – CT 0980

**CARRIED**

The meeting was closed to members of the public at 8.20pm.

*The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 11.1 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Bird Avenue, Northcote – CT 20094), Report Item 11.2 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Bent Street, Northcote – CT 20091) and Report Item 11.3 (Lease of Fitness Equipment for Reservoir Leisure Centre – CT 0980) which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 13 August 2009.*

*During the closed meeting, Cr. Greco disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 11.2 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Bent Street, Northcote – CT 20091) and left the meeting while the matter was considered.*

**RE-OPENING OF MEETING**

**MOVED:** Cr. S. Chiang  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.

**CARRIED**

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 8.24pm.

**CONFIDENTIAL****11.1 TENDER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BIRD AVENUE,  
NORTHCOTE – CT 20094**

MINUTE NO. 300

**AUTHOR:** Manager Capital Works – Graeme Houlden**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Budget allocation for this project is \$320,000.00 (excl GST) from the 2009/2010 Capital Works budget. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$ 268,974.00 (excl GST).**SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the reconstruction of Bird Avenue, Northcote, from Leinster Grove to St Georges Road. This work involves Concrete kerb and channel, drainage works and pavement works.

This report recommends that the tender of United Roads Pty Ltd be accepted.

**CONSULTATION:**

Ward Councillors (Concept Plan)  
Residents of Bird Avenue (Concept Plan)  
Manager Open Space Planning - Allan Wicks  
Manager Transportation Planning - Daniel Kollmorgan  
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing - David Cecala

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Council Resolution be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. S. Chiang  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** the following Council Resolution:

*“That:*

- (1) *The tender of United Roads Pty Ltd for the Reconstruction of Bird Avenue, Northcote, (CT 20094) for an amount of \$273,871.40 (including GST) be accepted.*

- (2) *The General Manager Community Assets and Leisure be authorised to finalise and execute contract documentation.*
- (3) *All tenderers be advised accordingly.”*

be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

**CARRIED**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*Having disclosed a conflict of interest in this matter, Cr Greco was not in attendance while this matter was considered.*

**11.2 TENDER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF BENT STREET,  
NORTHCOTE – CT 20091****MINUTE NO. 301****AUTHOR: Manager Capital Works – Graeme Houlden****MANAGER: General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Budget allocation for this project is \$220,000.00 (excl GST) from the 2009/2010 Capital Works budget. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$ 263,380.00 (excl GST).****SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the reconstruction of Bent St, Northcote, from Woolhouse Street to St Georges Road. This work involves Concrete kerb and bluestone channel, drainage works and asphalt works.

This report recommends that the tender of Presta Construction Group Pty Ltd be accepted.

**CONSULTATION:**

Ward Councillors (Concept Plan)  
Residents of Bent Street (Concept Plan)  
Manager Open Space Planning - Allan Wicks  
Manager Transportation Planning - Daniel Kollmorgan  
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing - David Cecala

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Council Resolution be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. S. Chiang  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** the following Council Resolution:

*“That:*

- (1) The tender of Presta Construction Group Pty Ltd for the Reconstruction of Bent Street, Northcote, (CT 20091) for an amount of \$267,718.00 (including GST) be accepted.*
- (2) The General Manager Community Assets and Leisure be authorised to finalise and execute contract documentation.*
- (3) All tenderers be advised accordingly.”*

be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

**CARRIED**

**CONFIDENTIAL****11.3 LEASE OF FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR RESERVOIR  
LEISURE CENTRE – CT 0980****MINUTE NO. 302****AUTHOR: Manager Reservoir Leisure Centre – Gary McAllister****MANAGER: General Manager Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: In accordance with the Reservoir Leisure Centre 2009/2010  
Operational Budget for Leasing of Cardio Fitness Equipment  
which has a combined operational budget allocation of \$48,820.****SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for a variety of fitness equipment to replace the existing leased equipment located in the Health Club at Reservoir Leisure Centre. The cardio equipment will be leased over a four year period and the lease includes a quarterly parts and labour servicing agreement.

The report recommends that the tender from Technogym P/L be accepted.

**CONSULTATION:**

The Evaluation Panel members:

- Gary McAllister, Manager Reservoir Leisure Centre
- Wendy Link Pierce, Health Club Coordinator
- Alan Gomez – Program Coordinator
- Russell Lynch, Procurement and Contracting Officer

The equipment was also trialled for a 3 week period in the health club and members, user groups, and staff were offered the opportunity to provide feedback on the equipment.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Council Resolution be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. S. Chiang  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** the following Council Resolution:

*“That Council resolves to accept the tender of Technogym P/L for the lease of Electronic Fitness Equipment and Cardio Televisions for the new gymnasium for an amount of \$3,620.00 per month (excl GST) being for a four (4) year rental and authorise the General Manager Community Assets and Leisure to finalise and execute contract documentation.”*

be made available to the public but the report remain confidential.

**CARRIED**

*Cr. Greco returned to the meeting – 8.25pm.*



## **12. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.