



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

MONDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2009

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER 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 21 DECEMBER 2009**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.02 P.M.

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Vince Fontana (Mayor)
Cr. Diana Asmar
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
Jeff Saker – General Manager City Services
Michael Ballock – Director Planning and Development
Bruce Dobson – General Manager Corporate Services
Libby Hynes – General Manager Environment and Amenity
Geoff Glynn – General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Jan Black – General Manager Community Services
Ray McQuillen – Manager Customer and Civic Services
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was lodged for the absence of Cr. Chiang.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Asmar disclosed a conflict of interest in Report Item 8.1 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project), Report Item 11.2 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Gadd Street Northcote – CT200915), Report Item 11.3 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Emmaline Street Northcote – CT200914), Report Item 11.4 (Tender for the Reconstruction of McCracken Avenue Northcote – CT200918) and Report Item 11.7 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Christmas Street Fairfield – CT200919) – see Pages 9 and 94.

Cr Katsis disclosed a conflict of interest in Report Item 8.1 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project) – see Page 9.

Cr Tsitas disclosed a conflict of interest in report Item 8.1 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project) – see Page 9.

The Mayor, Cr. Fontana, noted that Cr. Chiang had previously disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 30 November 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 7 December 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 8

5.1 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN

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

- Preston Cemetery Trust meeting.
- Council Briefing session.
- Carols at All Nations Park.
- Local constituent matters.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Audit Committee meeting.
- Lancaster Gate Reference Group meeting.
- Interfaith/Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council Dialogue meeting.
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre Board meeting.
- Darebin Enterprise Centre Board meeting and Annual Dinner.
- East Reservoir Neighbourhood House Open Day.
- Italian Councillors Network meeting.
- Merrilands Italian Pensioner Group Christmas luncheon.
- St Joseph the Worker Italian Pensioners Group meeting.
- Reservoir Greek Pensioner Group Christmas luncheon.
- Leisure Strategy Steering Group meeting.
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council Executive meeting.
- Inner Northern Group Training Ltd Board meeting and annual dinner.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

Cr. McCarthy noted that he had been on leave of absence and thanked everyone for the best wishes he had received on the arrival of his baby daughter.

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

- Local constituent matters.

Cr. McCarthy congratulated Cr. Fontana on his election as Mayor of the City for 2009/2010.

5.4 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSI

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

- Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting.
- Leisure Strategy Steering Group meeting.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Carols at All Nations Park.
- Preston Cemetery Trust meeting.
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group meeting.
- Local resident issues.

5.5 REPORT OF CR. DIANA ASMAR

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

- Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting.
- Leisure Strategy Steering Group meeting.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Preston Cemetery Trust meeting.
- Local resident issues.

Cr. Asmar extended seasons greetings to Councillors and Council staff.

5.6 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Launch of East Reservoir Neighbourhood House.
- Event at Blackburn Sikh Temple attended by the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, James Merlino MLA.
- Inspection of Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse.
- Merrilands Italian Pensioner Group Christmas luncheon.
- Community Day – T.W. Andrews Reserve.
- Leisure Strategy Steering Group meeting.
- Meeting about safety issues for the Indian community.
- Meeting with Traders in Edwardes and Spring Streets Reservoir regarding parking issues.

5.7 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

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

- Preston Cemetery Trust meeting.
- Council Briefing session.
- Opening of new Supermarket in Fairfield.
- Local constituent matters.

Cr. Tsitas extended best wishes for the festive season to people present in the public gallery, Councillors and Council staff.

5.8 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. VINCE FONTANA

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

- Audit Committee meeting.
- Preston Business Advisory Committee meeting.
- Tram Route 86 Project Officer Briefing.
- Northern Business Achievement Awards function.
- Victorian Local Governance Association end-of-year function.
- Hosted the Network of Italian Mayors and Councillors meeting.
- Darebin Police Community Open Day at Preston Police Station.
- Koorie Night Market at Northcote Town Hall.
- Parliament of World Religions conference.
- Darebin Local Safety Committee meeting.
- Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council meeting.
- IBLEO Social Club Christmas Dinner.
- Fundraiser for Friends of Baucau at Thornbury Neighbourhood House.
- Opened Carols at All Nations Park.
- Official launch of Reservoir Neighbourhood House.
- Friends of Baucau meeting.
- Greek Ex-Servicemen's Association launch of their commemorative book.
- Cycle Sports Victoria Madison Championships at Darebin International Sports Centre.
- Darebin African Resource Centre Community Gala Day at Merrilands Community Centre.
- Launched the Darebin Heatwave Plan.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

MINUTE NO. 9

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

The following questions were submitted:

- Geoffrey Richards of Preston asked a question about rubbish removal from Ascot Street Preston. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Fontana.
- Geoffrey Richards of Preston asked a question about damage to property caused by large vehicles using the laneway adjacent to 1 Ascot Street Preston. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Fontana.

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

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

7.1 AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTE NO. 10

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

A meeting of the Audit Committee was held on 1 December 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 Audit Committee meeting held on 1 December 2009 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. G. Greco
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT:

- (1) The Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 1 December 2009 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.
- (2) Council write to Mr. Colin Parker and Mr Albert Zago to acknowledge their work and contribution for their four year service on Darebin Council's Audit Committee.

CARRIED

7.2

COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE

MINUTE NO. 11

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

A meeting of the Community Grants Committee was held on 1 December 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.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the Report of the Community Grants Committee meeting held on 1 December 2009 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

CARRIED

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Cr. Asmar disclosed a conflict of interest in this matter classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association and describing the nature of the interest as that she has a relative who owns property and lives in the area affected by the project. She left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.38pm.

Cr. Katsis disclosed a conflict of interest in this matter classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association and describing the nature of the interest as that he has a relative who owns property in the area affected by the project. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.38pm.

Cr. Tsitas disclosed a conflict of interest in this matter classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association and describing the nature of the interest as that he has a relative who owns property and operates businesses in the area affected by the project. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.38pm.

8.1 TRAM ROUTE 86 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

MINUTE NO. 12

AUTHOR: Transport Strategy Coordinator - Kate Downward

MANAGER: Acting Manager, Transport Management and Planning - Nick Mazzarella

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Approximately \$2 million to be referred to the capital works budget for consideration over the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 financial years

SUMMARY:

Following the adoption of the Darebin Transport Strategy in late 2007, Council has been working to implement the Road Hierarchy which assigns priority to different modes on different roads. The Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project stemmed from this and has included almost 18 months of work in partnership with State Government and Yarra Trams.

The project aims are for a faster, more reliable and accessible tram service with pedestrian safety improvements and streetscape enhancements to Activity Centres.

A previous consultation period (March/April 2009) led to a re-work phase with Community Reference Groups over the 2009 winter. On 21 September 2009, Council released a revised Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project to go on public display from Monday 12 October to Friday 4 December, 2009. A comprehensive community consultation program was prepared for the eight week display period.

The consultation engaged over 2,100 residents, stakeholders and interested parties with over 75 written submissions and 2,097 surveys received. The proposal, as a whole, received an approval rating of 6.5 out of 10 where 0 = fully object and 10 = fully support. Almost 75% of the respondents to the survey rated the project as 5 or above. Nearly twice as many respondents to the survey fully supported the proposal as opposed to fully objected to the proposal.

The results of the consultation period has led to a recommendation to Council to move forward with the project with some additions.

CONSULTATION:

Consultation on the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project has been the most comprehensive ever undertaken in Council's history. The eight week community consultation period that has just concluded was extensive and included directly contacting 27,000 premises along the tram line; contacting 6,000 randomly sampled households away from the tram line; more than 20 hours of information sessions were offered; entertainers used to encourage participation; Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre were engaged to illicit responses from the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community;

A Community Consultation Report has been compiled and a summary version is available as an appendix to this Council Report (see **Appendix B**). A full version will be made publicly available including over 300 pages of appendices that includes all submissions and comments recorded through the surveys that were received.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT:

- (1) Council adopt the proposal for the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project that was on public display from 12 October to 4 December 2009 and as outlined in the Detailed Project Description attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

In addition, the following changes should also be adopted:

- (a) As part of the broader monitoring and evaluation plan for Stage 1, ensure the clearway times in Westgarth be assessed to determine whether they are providing priority to the trams before a similar treatment is pursued for Stage 2.
- (b) Include the following aspects for cyclists in the project:
 - i. Advanced cycle stop lines at all signals along the route as part of the project
 - ii. Investigate the provision of tram track fillers within the tracks alongside all central island tram stops to minimise the incidence of bicycle wheels getting caught
 - iii. Investigate the narrowing of the central median in the detailed design stage between Barry Street and Clarke Street Northcote to provide additional room without deviating the tram tracks substantially

- iv. Ensure, during detailed design, that the width of the Thornbury central island stops is the optimum width to provide more road space for cyclists
 - v. Provide adequate cycle parking in activity centres
 - vi. An education campaign for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians before, during and after implementation of Stage 1 to ensure high level of awareness of shared road use and obligations to each other
 - vii. Advocate for funding as part of Stage 1 of the project for upgrading the High/Westgarth intersection and the Westgarth Street route for cyclists
 - viii. Advocate for ensuring South Crescent bicycle facilities are programmed sooner rather than later as part of VicRoads' Principal Bicycle Network program.
- (c) Retain the turn bans as part of the proposal, but for the higher volume turn at Plenty Road and Bell Street, Preston instigate:
- i. Improved turning provisions at High Street/Bell Street intersection to facilitate the turning movement. This would possibly include signage of the alternative and an education campaign at implementation. To be investigated in detailed design stage.
 - ii. Monitoring of side streets around Westgarth Street and Bell Street turn bans and if there is evidence of a problem then solutions should be investigated.
- (d) Monitor Stage 1 in both pre-implementation and post-implementation stages. This will inform subsequent stages of the proposal and respond to the concerns regarding impact on local streets.
- (e) Stop 30 at Clarke Street Northcote to have ramps installed at the southern end to provide for disability access at either end of the platform.
- (f) Council advocate strongly to the State Government for Route 86 to run low floor trams in conjunction with the implementation of Stage 1 of the project or as soon as possible thereafter.
- (g) Council work with urban designers to arrive at a functional solution that takes into account the needs of waiting tram patrons, cyclists and adjacent land uses for the kerb outstand tram stops (stops 31 and 32 in Northcote).
- (h) Council advocate for the relevant State Government agencies and the City of Yarra to work together to complete a tram priority project similar to that proposed in Darebin to ensure the benefits to Tram Route 86 patrons are experienced along the length of the line.
- (i) The reasons behind the removal of tram stop 44 be communicated to the Greek Orthodox Church community.
- (2) Council note the Community Consultation Report Summary attached as **Appendix B** to this report and make the full Community Consultation Report and attachments available to the public through the Tram Route 86 webpage (www.darebin.vic.gov.au/route86) and by hardcopy on request.
- (3) The Mayor write to the Premier of Victoria and the Minister for Public Transport informing them of the decision to support the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project and request that State funding be sought to implement the project, with Stage 1 costing approximately \$30 million.

- (4) Refer funding consideration of Council's contribution to Stage 1 of the project to the future Capital Works Program, estimated to be \$2 million over two years beginning in 2010/2011.
- (5) Council report back to the community to inform them of this decision in the following ways: article in the February 2010 Darebin Newsletter; email/letter to all residents who participated in any part of the consultation process over 2009 (to be sent in January 2010 following the Christmas/New Year period); via the project webpage and via the transport stall at the Darebin Festival (March 2010).
- (6) The Mayor write to members of the Project Steering Group, informing them of the decision, thanking them for their efforts and acknowledging the significant work done by officers on the Project Working Group since September 2008.
- (7) The Mayor write to local Members of Parliament advising them of Council's decision and request their support for funding consideration from the State Government.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project aims to provide a faster, more reliable and accessible tram service to the Darebin community. This as an important project because:

- Access to public transport is required by Federal Law (Disability Discrimination Act – DDA). For Darebin this is particularly essential as:
 - 1 in 4 Darebin households earns less than \$500 per week
 - Almost 1 in 5 Darebin residents has a disability
 - 1 in 5 Darebin residents is aged over 60
 - Each of these groups are less likely to be able to own or drive a car and thus for access to employment and social opportunities, public transport is paramount.
- Tram priority works will provide passengers with a 25% tram travel time saving along the route.
- The provision of accessible platform tram stops provide safety improvements for tram passengers. Other safety aspects of the project stem from the slowing of traffic along High Street through the implementation of a 40km/h zone.
- The scheduled replacement of the tram tracks by the tram operator provides an unprecedented opportunity to re-align the tracks to accommodate the DDA tram stops.
- Significant State Government investment in Darebin would be required to implement this project.
- It provides an opportunity to enhance the streetscape of some of our centres of activity.
- The project provides an opportunity for Council to fulfil a number action items in strategic plans such as the Council Plan 2009-2013, Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027 and the Northcote Structure Plan.

CORE ISSUES

The community consultation program resulted in the following unprecedented level of engagement from the community:

- A return of 2,097 completed surveys which included 156 pages of comments from respondents
- 21 submissions from organisations
- 13 submissions from Thornbury traders
- 44 submissions from individuals
- 8 SMS/text submissions
- 50 attendees at drop-in information sessions.

The consultation program has been evaluated and this is detailed in **Appendix A**. In summary, the main points emanating from the consultation are:

- The proposal, as a whole, received an approval rating of 6.5 out of 10, where 0 = fully object and 10 = fully support.
- Almost 75% of the respondents to the survey rated the project as 5 or above.
- Nearly twice as many respondents to the survey fully supported the proposal as opposed to fully objected to the proposal.

These results demonstrate the majority of the community's willingness to go forward with the proposal. This does not mean that everyone will be pleased however. There were many that had specific concerns regarding some aspects of the proposal. In particular these were:

- Implementation of 40km/h along High Street – poor support of this through survey responses
- Move to one set of clearways via written submissions was vehemently opposed, however the survey responses broadly support this proposal with a score of 7.0 out of 10.
- Provision for and safety of cyclists was a key point for those making comments on the surveys and in the written submissions
- Removal of clearways in Northcote - poor support of this through survey responses
- Turn bans at Bell Street and Westgarth Street
- Impacts of the project on local streets along the route
- Concern over congestion on the preferred traffic routes created by the project
- Loss of approximately 10 car parking spaces at each stop
- Lack of a ramp at the southern end of stop 30 (Clarke Street in Northcote) to provide for disability access on both ends of the platform
- Need for low floor trams to make the route fully accessible
- Providing tram priority along the entire route, especially in the City of Yarra
- Urban design of stop 32 at Hawthorn/Mitchell Street
- Removal of tram stop 44
- 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it' scenario.

These concerns have been canvassed with the project stakeholders (Department of Transport, VicRoads, Department of Planning and Community Development and Yarra Trams) and are detailed here with recommendations to move forward with.

40km/h speed limit along High Street

The survey responses showed lower support for this aspect of the proposal (6.0 out of 10). Summary of comments from respondents:

- They would like a faster journey by car
- Think 40km/h is frustrating
- Think that 40km/h will slow the tram too much
- Enforcement should accompany implementation
- The zone should be in peak times only.

Trends for the implementation of 40km/h zones in shopping strips (such as High Street Preston and Station Street Fairfield) is set to continue across Melbourne through a VicRoads as part of an approved State Government program. The pedestrian safety benefits far outweigh any frustrations to motorists.

Recommendation: 40km/h should be approved with a request to Victoria Police to conduct an enforcement program, particularly at the time of implementation.

Move to one set of clearways in Westgarth and Thornbury (extension of clearways)

Extension of clearways in Westgarth (1 submission) and Thornbury (13 submissions plus a 140 signature petition) was opposed, however the survey responses broadly support this proposal with a score of 7.0 out of 10.

It was predominantly businesses operating on the west side of these shopping strips that were opposed to the clearways, particularly the 3pm start around intersections and the extension through to 7pm.

As the Thornbury stage of the project is not scheduled for another 2-3 years, it would be prudent to evaluate the Westgarth clearway times in relation to providing the tram with priority, prior to implementation in Thornbury.

The extension of the clearway to 10am on the east side of these shopping strips caused less concern.

It should be noted that the survey responses were very much in favour of the extended clearway times. Judging from the comments, this was largely due to individuals who would like to see traffic moving along High Street as opposed to the aims of this project of providing the tram with priority.

Recommendation: As part of the broader monitoring and evaluation plan, ensure the clearway times in Westgarth be assessed to determine whether they are providing priority to the trams.

Provision for and safety of cyclists

Provision for cyclists was a key concern arising through the comments in the surveys and was also the key subject of many written submissions.

The proposal prioritises trams along the corridor along with pedestrians in centres of activity. Cyclists are not part of this mix, however they do utilise High Street in particular for journeys to the activity centres, more-so than for commuting.

In particular, the central island platforms proposed, create squeeze points for cyclists between parked cars (during off-peak times) and the tram track (which is a hazard for bike wheels). It becomes an issue of space and priorities. The route cannot be all things to all modes.

Upgrading of nearby alternative routes has been suggested as one way of addressing cyclists with this project. Victoria Road in particular, cross links along east-west routes and the very important South Crescent to Westgarth Street to the new Merri Creek pipe bridge link are examples of how cycling can be strengthened. This should include the High/Westgarth Street intersection which sees nearly 400 cyclists use it in an east-west direction during the morning peak period (SuperTuesday counts, March 2009).

However, this does not negate the need to ensure the safety of cyclists who do choose to use High Street. The 40km/h limit and a reduction in cars along the route will be of great benefit to cyclists. The inclusion of advanced cycle stop lines at all signals along the route would also be an advantage by giving bicycles a head start into the squeeze points.

Some advocated for the removal of car parking alongside all central island platforms. In addition, the central median through Westgarth was seen as one continual squeeze point and preferred for it to be narrower. Parking removal would be problematic and there would be a minimum width that the central median should be before it becomes a danger to pedestrians using it.

Provision of more cycle parking in the busy areas is imperative as part of this project. The Northcote Streetscape Masterplan will address the main Northcote hub, however further consideration is required for Westgarth and through Thornbury.

Recommendation: Include the following aspects for cyclists in the project:

- Advanced cycle stop lines at all signals along the route as part of the project
- Investigate the provision of tram track fillers within the tracks alongside all central island tram stops to minimise the incidence of bicycle wheels getting caught
- Investigate the narrowing of the central median in the detailed design stage between Barry Street and Clarke Street to provide additional room without deviating the tram tracks substantially
- Ensure, during detailed design, that the width of the Thornbury central island stops is the optimum width to provide more road space for cyclists
- Provide adequate cycle parking in activity centres
- An education campaign for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians before, during and after implementation of Stage 1 to ensure high level of awareness of shared road use and obligations to each other
- Advocate for funding as part of Stage 1 of the project for upgrading High/Westgarth intersection and Westgarth Street route for cyclists
- Advocate for ensuring South Crescent bicycle facilities are programmed sooner rather than later as part of VicRoads' Principle Bicycle Network program.

Removal of clearways in Northcote

This aspect of the proposal received the least amount of support of any of the major proposals (5.0 out of 10). Judging by the comments from survey respondents, they felt this would create a bottleneck, was disadvantaging traffic flow in peak times and would also delay the trams.

The presence of the two kerb outstand platform stops, which provide more room and opportunity for streetscape improvements in this major activity centre, is the key reason for the removal of clearways as they wouldn't add significant value between kerb outstands that are so close.

Recommendation: Clearways be removed in Northcote as proposed.

Turn bans at Bell Street and Westgarth Street

These bans were an issue to some (scoring 4.7 /10 for Bell Street and 5.6 / 10 for Westgarth Street) due to concerns of diverting turning traffic on to local streets. Barry Street and Union Street in particular were of most concern.

The bans have been proposed to provide the tram with priority. Many respondents suggested that a turning arrow be provided to clear cars for the tram, however it does not gain the outcome required for the tram. In particular at Bell Street, where counts show there is approximately 50-70 cars making the proposed turn ban in one hour of the morning peak, it is the opposite turn that the proposal is trying to encourage (from north to west, taking cars off Plenty Road and onto Bell Street – approximately 150 cars perform this turn in one hour of the morning peak). A leading and lagging arrow is suggested here to further encourage that movement and the provision of arrows from south to east would not be possible.

At Westgarth Street, the use of the north to west turn is very low. Approximately 20 cars perform this turn in one hour of the morning peak. If the turn was to be banned and these cars used Barry or Union Street to access Merri Parade, the increase would not be recognisable.

In addition, the treatment proposed at High/Westgarth Street intersection to encourage north bound through traffic to utilise St Georges Road, will be part of the solution as St Georges Road links to Bell Street further north.

Recommendation: Retain the turn bans as part of the proposal, but for the higher volume turn (at Bell Street) investigate the provision of an alternative turn onto Bell Street heading east at High Street/Bell Street intersection. This would possibly include signage of the alternative and an education campaign at implementation. To be investigated in detailed design stage.

It is also recommended to undergo monitoring of side streets around these turn bans and along other parts of the route pre implementation and post implementation. This will also better inform subsequent stages of the proposal. This should form part of a larger monitoring/evaluation plan that will assist with improving other stages and respond to the concerns regarding impact on local streets.

If there is evidence of a problem in side streets then solutions should be investigated.

Congestion on preferred traffic routes

This concern was voiced continually in respondents' comments and it scored 5.9 / 10 in the survey. The feeling is that St Georges Road and Albert Street are already at capacity and High Street is also needed to 'carry the load'.

The number of cars that will be encouraged to use the preferred traffic routes is probably less than what people perceive. High Street will still operate with approximately 900 cars per hour in the peaks with only approximately 200 or so diverted per hour, spread between the two alternatives. There will also be an expected transfer of drivers to tram and train.

Recommendation: The preferred traffic routes stem from the Network Operating Plan agreed to by Council and VicRoads and spelt out in the Darebin Transport Strategy. The principles they are based on are sound.

The current road network will not be able to accommodate the continuing growth in traffic volumes due to population growth, the desire for higher mobility and growing car ownership and thus projects such as this, which prioritise the people carrying capacity of the network and manages the traffic are required.

Ramp at the end of stop 30 (Clarke Street in Northcote)

The proposal presented to the community contained stairs at the southern end and a ramp at the northern end. Previous residents of the Office of Housing Roberts Street apartments (as they are temporarily relocated due to reconstruction of the apartments) were concerned that this would limit their access to this stop.

Recommendation: Stop 30 should have ramps at each end. The Project Working Group has agreed that this is possible to provide for disability access at either end of the platform.

Loss of ten parking spaces at each stop

This scored only 5.6 /10 from the survey respondents. Many comments were opposed to the platform style stops (kerb outstands or central island) that necessitate the removal of parking. A Federal Law (Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)) compels compliance or exposes public transport agencies. These stops are required to be installed to provide equity of access for people with disabilities, the frail, elderly and parents with prams. As such the loss of a small amount of parking spaces is inevitable.

Recommendation: Installation of DDA compliant tram stops necessitates the removal of approximately 10 parking spaces per stop. This is unavoidable and the accessibility and mobility the stops will provide to the Darebin community will far outweigh the loss of parking spaces.

A fully accessible route

The installation of the DDA compliant tram stops makes the tram stop infrastructure accessible. To create a truly accessible route, the tram vehicles must also be DDA compliant with low floors.

Recommendation: Council advocate strongly for Route 86 to run low floor trams in conjunction with the implementation of Stage 1 of the project or as soon as possible thereafter.

Urban design of stop 32 (Mitchell / Hawthorn intersection in Northcote)

There are some concerns with the current north bound stop layout in regards to the limited waiting space for tram patrons, the lack of integration with the footpath and the amount of room dedicated to cyclists.

Recommendation: Work with urban designers to arrive at a functional solution that takes into the needs of waiting tram patrons, cyclists and adjacent land uses.

Completing Tram Route 86

A number of comments from the community surrounded other delays experienced by Tram Route 86 – namely in Smith Street Collingwood.

Recommendation: Council advocate for the relevant State Government agencies and the City of Yarra to work together to complete a tram priority project similar to that proposed in Darebin to ensure the benefits to Tram Route 86 patrons are experienced along the entire length of the line. Darebin could provide a leadership role with the Department of Transport in sharing knowledge and experience of Route 86 to other Councils.

Removal of Tram Stop 44

Through the work of Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre it is apparent that there is still a lot of concern from members of the Greek community regarding the removal of tram stop 44 near to the Greek Orthodox Church in Yann Street Preston.

Recommendation: Communicate the reasons behind the removal of tram stop 44 to the Greek Orthodox Church community.

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” scenario

This was a strong sentiment from some of the comments received. In conjunction with the ‘do nothing’ scenario, these are not options for Darebin, the State Government and current and future users of the tram.

Doing nothing will further hinder the trams into the future as traffic grows, making them less attractive for journeys. In addition, this growth in journeys, if not encouraged to be taken by fast, reliable and safe public transport will be adding to the traffic load and further reduce the amenity and liveability of High Street, home to a number of activity centres.

Recommendation: Council has engaged and heard the community through a thorough and extensive consultation campaign. All aspects of the project have been thoroughly assessed

and appropriate amendments have been recommended within this report to improve the current concept. Essentially the extensive community consultation program has been successful in validating and improving the proposal.

It is recommended that Council adopts the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project with the recommendations spelt out within this paper to be incorporated.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project provides an opportunity to Council to prioritise public transport over the private motor vehicle. In doing so it gives users of public transport, which is less polluting and resource intensive than the private motor vehicle, a faster, more reliable and safer journey.

Improvements to the Northcote Activity Centre, through the Northcote Streetscape Masterplan which is closely tied to the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project, will provide a better pedestrian environment in a very busy Activity centre and encourage more people to walk, cycle and take public transport to these areas.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

One of the key elements of the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project is the provision of accessible platform tram stops to ensure the infrastructure component of tram stops become Disability Discrimination Act compliant as soon as possible. This will put Tram Route 86 in a very strong position to have new low floor trams run on this route when they become available.

Accessible platform tram stops and low floor trams will enable people with mobility impairments, wheelchairs, shopping trolleys and parents with prams the ability to access the tram in this corridor for the first time from a DDA perspective.

Public transport is also vital for those people in the community who cannot afford to own and run a vehicle and older adults (a growing segment of our community) who are entering a phase where they should be driving less. Providing a good public transport network is valuable for their social inclusion and participation in the wider community.

Other

The economic assessment of the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project is currently being finalised with a conservative ratio of 1.83, however there are many un-quantifiable benefits within this project such as:

- Provision of improved housing choice
- Urban amenity improvement
- Local economic benefits including provision of local jobs and construction jobs
- Improved accessibility through the provision of DDA compliant tram facilities
- Reduced car ownership
- Crime reduction.

The Darebin Transport Strategy contains direction on road space allocation and the provision of priority to different modes of transport in different land use settings. The Tram Route 86 Corridor

Improvement Project utilises the principle of road space allocation from the Darebin Transport Strategy with an aim to improving public transport along a designated public transport corridor and improving the pedestrian environment within our busy activity centres.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The contribution by Council to this project is a small percentage of the overall cost of implementation. The State Government has responsibility for the tram priority works, the Disability Discrimination Act compliant tram stops and the 40km/h signage amongst other things. Yarra Trams has a responsibility for the tram track replacement. Council's responsibility lies in the urban realm and amenity works such as the central medians in Thornbury and Westgarth and the improvements of the proposed tram stops in Northcote to compliment the Northcote Streetscape Masterplan.

It is estimated that, if Stage 1 of the project (Westgarth and Northcote) is funded in the short term, then Council's contribution will be approximately \$2 million over two years. This figure will be clarified in coming months prior to the Council budget discussions.

As land use planning progresses throughout Darebin, there may be other opportunities in line with the staging of the Route 86 project to complete streetscape works in Preston and Reservoir. For example, when the Plenty Road Land Use Study is completed in 2010, the resultant Urban Design Framework will be pivotal in determining improvements along this corridor.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Continue enhancing the project proposal through a detailed design process
- Pursue State Government funding (funding from the State Government is required to implement this Project. This has not been secured as yet).
- Submit a budget bid for Council's contribution to Stage 1 (capital program)

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Transport Strategy, 2007-2027
Council Report, 6 October 2008
Council Report, 1 June 2009
Council Report, 6 July 2009
Council Report, 21 September 2009

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Detailed Project Description

Appendix B: Community Consultation Report Summary

Crs. Asmar, Katsis and Tsitas returned to the meeting – 8.46pm.

8.2 FINANCIAL REPORT – 5 MONTHS ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2009**MINUTE NO. 13****AUTHOR:** Financial Accountant – Michael O’Riordan**MANAGER:** Chief Financial Officer – Kerrie Jordan**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Year to date operating surplus of \$47.7 million and capital works expenditure of \$5.7 million.**SUMMARY:**

A comprehensive financial review has been undertaken for the five months ended 30 November 2009 to assess the financial performance of Council year-to-date (YTD). The outcome of the review indicates that Council has achieved a YTD operating surplus of \$47.7 million and capital works expenditure of \$5.7 million. All material variations have been explained in the report.

CONSULTATION:

Managers and Coordinators.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. D. Asmar
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT the contents of the “Financial Report for the five months ended 30 November 2009” included as **Appendix A** to this report be received and the year-to-date actual and budget operating and capital results be noted.

CARRIED**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

Under the Local Government Act 1989, at least every three months the Chief Executive Officer is required to present to the Council a statement comparing the budgeted with the actual revenues and expenses for the financial year to date. In complying with the Act, the attached report (see **Appendix A**) compares the actual and budgeted operating revenues and expenses and the actual and budgeted capital revenues and expenses for the five months ended 30 November 2009. It also compares the actual and budgeted movements in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement for that period.

CORE ISSUES***Operating Performance***

The Operating Performance for the five months ended 30 November 2009 is an operating surplus before capital revenue and other items of \$46.0 million, which is \$3.7 million ahead of budget. The main items contributing to this favorable variance are user fees, statutory fees and fines, contributions income, operating and capital grants, other revenue and depreciation expenses. The majority of material variances reported are of a timing nature. After capital and other items, the operating surplus is \$47.7 million, which is \$4.9 million ahead of budget.

Capital Performance

The Capital Performance for the five months ended 30 November 2009 shows that a total of \$5.7 million has been expended on the capital works program, which is \$3.3 million behind the budget. The variance is due mainly to timing differences on roads projects, open space projects, construction of buildings and purchase of plant and equipment.

Financial Position

The Financial Position as at 30 November 2009 shows a cash balance of \$33.6 million which is \$1.1 million ahead of budget. The variance is due mainly to the lower payment for property, infrastructure, plant & equipment and higher opening cash positions compared with budget, partly offset by the receipt of borrowings of \$2.3 million not undertaken at this stage. The net current asset position is \$63.9 million which is \$8.3 million more than budget. The variance is due mainly to the higher cash position, higher trade receivables and lower trade payables positions compared with budget. The net asset position is \$958.2 million, which is \$118.8 million ahead of budget and reflects the impact of asset revaluations at 30 June 2009 of \$104.9 million.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS***Environmental Sustainability***

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Financial Report for the five months ended 30 November 2009 shows that Council's YTD operating result is a surplus of \$47.7 million and \$5.7 million has been expended on capital works.

FUTURE ACTIONS

A further financial report will be presented to Council for the 6 months ending 31 December 2009.

8.3 2010 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT**MINUTE NO. 14****AUTHOR:** Civic Events Officer - Deborah Equid**MANAGER:** Manager Communications and Public Affairs - Trisha Love**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** \$3,000 currently allocated in 2009 - 2010 Budget**SUMMARY:**

Darebin City Council has an established practice of hosting and participating in International Women's Day (IWD) events each year. A lunch-time event on Thursday 11 March 2010, with the theme 'sharing the road – celebrating the journeys of women', is proposed to celebrate IWD with the Darebin community in 2010.

CONSULTATION:

2009 International Women's Day Committee
Darebin Women's Advisory Committee

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. D. Asmar
SECONDED: Cr. T. Laurence

THAT Council endorse the theme 'sharing the road – celebrating the journeys of women' for Council's 2010 International Women's Day event.

CARRIED**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

International Women's Day (IWD) has been celebrated on 8 March around the world since it was established in Europe in 1911.

Council appoints an IWD Committee for a two year term to select an International Women's Day event model and theme. The Committee must ensure the event is in line with the stated principles and aims of City of Darebin IWD events, support the organisation of the event and assist with promotion.

Council has adopted a Terms of Reference for the management of the Committee and guidelines on the principles and aims of the event. The adopted principles for IWD events hosted by the City of Darebin state that the events should:

- Celebrate the achievements of women

- Support women's work for equality, justice, peace and social development
- Support the full participation of women in political, economic and social life.

In previous years events have addressed the principles through the celebration of a theme selected by the Committee. Consideration is given to past events and themes, with the intent to celebrate a new topic and the connection to women each year.

The theme for the 2009 event was 'the ART of being a woman'. Activities included a morning tea and a panel of speakers from the arts. The event was attended by over 250 people.

An IWD Committee was appointed for 2009 with five new community members and Cr Diana Asmar as Councillor Representative. The IWD Committee met on 22 October 2009 and selected a lunch-time event at the Preston City Hall on Thursday 11 March 2010, with the theme 'Sharing the road - celebrating the journeys of women', to celebrate International Women's Day in 2010.

The IWD Committee will also continue to work with Women's Health in the North (WHIN) and Thornbury Women's Neighbourhood House in 2010 to develop and promote additional IWD activities across the municipality.

The newly formed Darebin Women's Advisory Group was informed of the theme and the model and will look for opportunities to participate in, and be involved with, the event in 2010.

Further work will occur in 2010 to consider how the IWD Committee and the Darebin Women's Advisory Group can work together in the future on activities and events to celebrate International Women's Day.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Consideration will be given in event planning to environmentally sensitive practices in logistics, catering and venue selection.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The 2010 International Women's Day event is a free event for the Darebin community to attend. Diverse groups and women from many different cultures are encouraged to attend and to be involved in the Committee in the planning of the event.

Other

The International Women's Day Committee will work collectively with the Darebin Women's Advisory Group to look at developing strategic approaches to celebrating women each year and at future events.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The event has been allowed for in the 2009 / 2010 budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Darebin International Women's Day Committee to meet in January 2010 to plan the March 2010 event
- A communications strategy to be developed to promote the event
- Event planning.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- International Women's Day Project Committee Terms Of Reference
- International Women's Day event guidelines and nomination form

8.4 DAREBIN STATE OF THE ASSETS REPORT**MINUTE NO. 15****AUTHOR:** Coordinator Asset Management – Robert Cauchi**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

This report provides a snapshot of how Council is progressing against its Asset Management goals. In 2008/2009, Council has continued to increase its spending on the renewal of its Assets. Most notably, Council has completed or almost completed all of the major Asset Management improvement projects it had identified in 2005, when the original Asset Management Strategy was adopted. Over the coming years, a continued focus on closing the infrastructure funding gap is required, in conjunction with further improvements in Asset Management practices.

CONSULTATION:

Financial Services Branch

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. G. Greco**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Tsitas

THAT the “*State of the Assets Report 2008/2009*” attached as **Appendix A** to this report be received and noted.

CARRIED**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

Victoria’s 79 local Councils are responsible for maintaining \$33.5 billion worth of ageing infrastructure including roads, bridges, drains, parks, 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 steady level that’s acceptable to the community.
- Developing the information and practices to support this.

In June 2005, Council produced its first “State of the Assets Report”, which presented indicators of Council’s performance in Asset Management for the first time. The 2008/2009 “State of the Assets Report” (see **Appendix A**) is the fifth time these indicators were measured, and now also provides trend data that can be analysed and used to direct improvements.

These indicators provide a very basic snapshot using the information that is currently available, and as a result they have their limitations. These limitations are further discussed in the “State of the Assets Report”.

CORE ISSUES

The purpose of the “State of the Assets Report” is to provide good information to support future Capital Works Planning. It is accompanied by the Asset Management Dashboard (pages 5 & 6 of the document), which provides a snapshot of Council’s performance via a set of indicators. This report looks back at the 2008/2009 financial year and compares it with the previous financial years.

In 2008/2009, Council had almost \$897 million in property, infrastructure, plant and equipment. The current challenge faced by Council is to ensure that sufficient funds are spent on renewing those assets to sustain them at a level that will meet the needs of Council and the community into the future.

Council’s infrastructure funding gap in 2008/2009 is estimated to be approximately \$3.1 million per year. This is an approximation, to acknowledge that our current information is an estimate only. This funding gap means that Council would need to increase the capital works expenditure directed to asset renewal projects by this amount to prevent its assets from gradually wearing down over time.

Council’s Sustainability Index (SI) is another way of measuring the infrastructure funding gap, by expressing this gap in terms of the percentage of renewal needs that are being met. The SI in 2008/2009 was 80.1% (an improvement over the 2007/2008 result of 66.6%). This means that in 2008/2009, Council estimates that it funded 80.1% of its renewal needs.

Council has begun to lessen the gap, and plans to continue reducing this gap over the coming years. The usual increase in SI has been around 2 % per year, and at this rate it will take 16 years to close the infrastructure funding gap. Improving this rate will be more fully considered and addressed during the completion of the next Long Term Capital Plan. There is a strong driver to close this gap sooner, as the gap results in a backlog of works, and a running down of Council’s assets.

2008/2009 Capital Works Expenditure

Capital Works Expenditure for the 2008/2009 financial year was \$28.1M. As in previous years, the capital works expenditure has been broken down into the various expenditure types; New, Expansion & Upgrade, Renewal, Maintenance and Other.

Limitations to the data

Depreciation is a financial measure of Asset Renewal needs, and this is currently being used while a better measure is being developed. The best way to measure Council’s Asset Renewal needs is through a physical condition assessment of each asset, and a good model for its deterioration over time. The limitations to the data are more fully discussed within the “State of the Assets Report”

Asset Management Practices

In 2005, Council adopted its first Asset Management Strategy, which set out a program for improvement of our Asset Management Practices. Important steps have been taken towards best practice in asset management, and some of these are listed below:

- Adoption of a formal Council asset management strategy and policy;
- Development of detailed asset management plans for each major infrastructure class. Road, Drainage and Building Asset Management Plans have already been completed and adopted, with the Open Space Asset Management Plan currently being developed and will be adopted in the first half of 2010;
- Scoping, purchase and implementation of the new Asset Management Information System (CAMS);
- Participation in the Municipal Association of Victoria's Step program - a program aimed at assisting Council's progress towards best practice in asset management;
- Development of the first Long Term Capital Program; and
- Establishment and operation of the Capital Coordinating Group which provides a greater level of rigor to the Capital Planning and Capital Works management process.

Most of the improvements initiated during the development of the Asset Management Strategy are either complete or nearing completion. This is a significant outcome for Council, as it provides a platform to enable further improvements and to capitalise on the work that was done. These are more fully discussed within the "State of the Assets Report"

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**Environmental Sustainability**

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Over the coming year, Council will:

- Complete and adopt the Open Space Asset Management Plan
- Complete the implementation of the Asset Management Information System (CAMS)
- Further refine the Long Term Capital Program
- Review the Asset Management Policy and Strategy to articulate the next round of Asset Management Improvements
- Produce the next “State of the Assets Report”, and monitor the level of the Infrastructure Funding Gap.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Darebin State of the Assets Report 2008/09* – see **Appendix A** attached.
- Darebin State of the Assets Report 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07 & 2007/08

**8.5 REGIONAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
COMPETITIVE STRATEGIC FUND - ROUND TWO****MINUTE NO. 16****AUTHOR:** Acting Manager, Asset Strategy - Anita Craven**MANAGER:** General Manager, Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Possible income of \$3,000,000 through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Fund and a further \$2,000,000 Council funds from the 2010/2011 Capital Works budget to be expended on Capital Works by June 2011.**SUMMARY:**

On 25 June 2009 the Federal Government announced an additional \$220 million for Round Two of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program (RLCIP). A component of this funding totalling \$100 million is to be provided to local governments by way of a non-competitive allocation (of which Darebin is to receive \$271,000) and a further \$120 million for larger Strategic Projects allocated on a competitive basis.

This report outlines the funding requirements and constraints for the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure larger strategic projects fund, and recommends that a \$3,000,000 submission be lodged through this fund for the redevelopment of the Reservoir Library.

CONSULTATION:

All Council Departments
Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Fund administrators
Community and stakeholder consultation to be undertaken early in 2010 following the completion of a detailed scoping exercise

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. T. Laurence**SECONDED:** Cr. G. Greco**THAT:**

- (1) Council Officers make a submission to the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Strategic Competitive Fund for \$3,000,000 for the redevelopment of the Reservoir Library.
- (2) Should the application for funding be successful then a further \$2,000,000 is referred for consideration to Council's 2010/11 capital works program for the redevelopment of the Reservoir Library.
- (3) Council officers report back to Council on the outcomes of the scoping exercise and the results of consultation with community and key stakeholders.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

In 2008, the Federal Government announced an \$800 million funding program to build regional and local community infrastructure (RLCIP) in all of Australia's 565 local council areas. The aim of the program is to boost local economic development and support jobs in communities around the country. The funding package was made up of a \$250 million one-off grant to every Council and Shire (of which Darebin received \$681,000) and a \$550 million competitive strategic fund for larger-scale community infrastructure.

- Darebin utilised the \$681,000 funding package to complete the renewal of four neighbourhood parks across the municipality, redevelopment of Zwar Reserve and an upgrade of Clyde St, Community Centre; and
- Council was also successful in obtaining \$4.9 million funding from \$550 million competitive strategic fund for the redevelopment of Lancaster Gate Community Centre.

On 25 June 2009 the Federal Government announced an additional \$220 million for Round Two of the RLCIP. A component of this funding totalling \$100 million is to be provided to local governments by way of a non-competitive allocation (of which Darebin is to receive \$271,000) and a further \$120 million for larger Strategic Projects allocated on a competitive basis.

The Federal Government released the guidelines and timeframes for applications on 9 October 2009.

On 16 November 2009, Council endorsed Council Officers to submit the following projects for the \$271,000 non-competitive funding:

- Preston Court House refurbishment and upgrade (\$80k),
- Frank Arthur Allan Dunstan Reserve upgrade (\$80k), and
- Placement of a portable structure to increase kindergarten places within the municipality (\$111k).

Examples of community infrastructure that would be eligible for the funding include:

- Social and cultural infrastructure, such as town halls, community centres, libraries, parks and public spaces,
- Sport and recreation facilities, such as sporting grounds, stadiums, pools, walking tracks and playgrounds,
- Environmental initiatives, such as water conservation and treatment infrastructure, drainage and sewerage projects and waste management infrastructure,
- Children, youth and senior facilities, such as playgroup centres and senior citizen centres,
- Tourism infrastructure, such as walkways and tourist information centres, and
- Access facilities such as footbridges, bus shelters, jetties and boat ramps.

Funding can be used for:

- Construction for new or upgraded facilities; and
- Refurbishment and fit out. Fit out is defined by the Department as internal construction of a facility to enable its functional use, for example, the installation of electrical sockets and lighting or the painting of walls.

Where they are minor components, funding can also be used for:

- Engineering, geotechnical or architectural works; and
- Land surveys and site investigations.

CORE ISSUES

Principles for allocation of funding

The Federal Government guidelines for eligible projects are:

- The projects need to fit the community infrastructure definition provided within the guidelines and outlined above. The guidelines are very broad and encompass a large proportion of the projects within our long term capital program.
- The projects must be ready to proceed within six months of signing a contract,
- The projects need to be able to be completed by 30 June 2011. This requirement heavily influences the selection of projects. Non completion of projects within the timelines will result in the refunding of grant monies.
- The project must be seeking a minimum contribution of at least \$1 million and partnership funding is required. Preference may be given projects with the greater co-contribution.
- Performance against round one funding may be taken into account.

Councils are also encouraged to include projects that:

- Address the needs of the local indigenous population, or
- Consider environmental sustainability when preparing project proposals, and how their RLCIP activities will promote green building technologies, design practices and operations.

In addition to the principles outlined in the Federal Government guidelines, the following principles were developed to guide the selection of Darebin projects for this fund:

- These should be visible projects that might create some interest or are of note in the community.
- The selected projects should spread the funding equitably, considering geographic locations, wards, and numbers of people who would benefit.
- These should be projects that are already identified within our long term capital program, adopted policies, strategies or programs. This means that the requirement for the project has already been tested, and the funding would be put towards an already identified need.
- These projects should be on Council's owned and / or managed assets, so the benefit of the funding is preserved for the whole Darebin community.

Reservoir Library Redevelopment

Based on both the Federal Government guidelines and Darebin's additional guiding principles, the Redevelopment of the Reservoir Library would be the best fit to put forward as the potential project for this funding.

Since the Reservoir Library was constructed in Ralph Street in 1980 the surrounding shopping precinct design has changed significantly leaving the building isolated within two car parking areas. As such it does not have any visibility or direct access to the main street.

The structural condition of the building and the heating / cooling system are nearing the end of their life, considering their age and outdated construction methods. There have been a number of structural issues with the building footings subsided over time. The building has poor environmental sustainable design features due to the building standards at the time.

While a redesign and refurbishment of the building would address the structural issues of the building, it would not change the lack of visibility of the current location, so a medium term plan for relocation would deliver far greater benefits.

To inform the future development and direction of Darebin Libraries a hierarchy of libraries has been developed. The three categories are:

Neighbourhood Library:	Fairfield
Community Library:	Reservoir
Activity Centre Library:	Northcote and Preston

The characteristics of a Community library are:

- Serving a local population of up to 30,000 to 50,000
- Located in a major activity centre
- Focus on providing resources and services that reflect the needs of the local community.

The publication viewed across Australia as the primary reference tool for public library building planning - People Places: A guide for public library building in New South Wales 2nd edition, Library Council of New South Wales, 2005 sets out a clear criteria for the location of a public library:

- Main street or shopping area location;
- Highly visible location particularly from the shopping area;
- Street frontage with library on ground floor and not hidden from the road by trees or another building;
- High level of personal and property safety;
- Fully accessible for people with limited mobility;
- Close to and/or accessible from local schools and educational facilities;
- Potential for an outdoor area to be attached to the library;
- Priority pedestrian access which is safe and attractive, particularly for older residents, children and parents with prams;
- Walking distance from public transport which is typically 400-500 metres with minimal gradient;
- Access to convenient and safe car parking with priority for people with a disability, older residents, parents with prams, staff and night-time users;
- Accessible for community buses, mobile libraries, deliveries and other vehicles; and
- Site able to accommodate future expansion of the library if required.

The current location of the library meets few of these criteria and critically not the first two.

Funding and consultation

Initial costings for the redevelopment of the Reservoir Library are in the vicinity of \$4 - \$5 million, dependent on location and extent of works. A detailed scoping exercise is currently underway to

outline location and scale opportunities, which will further inform final costs. Funding for this redevelopment will ideally be a combination of Commonwealth, State and Council funds. A \$3,000,000 submission to Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Strategic Fund will be lodged with the remaining funds being sought through Council's Capital Works program and other external funding sources, including:

- Living Libraries – the round that has just finalised this year has a maximum of \$500,000, with a 2 to 1 funding requirement for metro libraries. It is anticipated funding will be available again next year and if so, an application will be lodged.
- Community Support Fund – Funding is not available for stand alone libraries, so this funding source will be viable if the library is relocated with other community facilities.

Given the tight timelines associated with the Federal Government submissions, consultation has been limited to date. Broader community and stakeholder consultation has been scheduled to commence early in 2010 once the detailed scoping exercise has been completed.

Key Timelines for the \$120 million competitive strategic fund

Federal Government guidelines outline the following key timelines which must be adhered to ensure that the funding is received.

Applications due by:	15 January 2010
Approval announcement:	First quarter 2010
Commence project:	September 2010
Expend funds by:	June 2010

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Upgrade and enhancement of community infrastructure are completed in line with environmental sustainability practices and principles as outlined in the following key documents: City of Darebin ESD guidelines (2009) and City of Darebin Procurement Policy (2009).

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The redevelopment of the Reservoir Library is proposed to enhance the existing service and support increased social inclusion for a broad section of the community including youth, aged and children services who are the highest end users of the current targeted library programs.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Should the submission be successful it is expected that an income of \$3,000,000 through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Fund and a further \$2,000,000 Council funds could be required from the 2010/2011 Capital Works budget to be expended on Capital Works by June 2011.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Submissions will be completed and lodged by 15 January 2010.

A further briefing be provided to Council on the findings of the detailed scoping exercise and consultation outcomes with the community and key stakeholders.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Funding Round Two Guidelines

8.6 SUSTAINABLE HOMES REVIEW - OPTIONS FOR CONTINUATION

MINUTE NO. 17

AUTHOR: Environmental Education and Promotions Coordinator - Rebecca Petit**MANAGER:** Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Contained within report**SUMMARY:**

The Sustainable Homes Program was developed by Darebin in 2005 and through its success was expanded to include Banyule and Whittlesea municipalities from 2007, with 70% funding through a Sustainability Fund Grant from the Victorian Government. The community seminar and event delivery of the funded program concluded in November 2009, with funding continuing through to March 2010 for program evaluation and grant acquittal requirements.

The program has been very effective in engaging the Darebin community and encouraging environmental outcomes in the lives of participants - these include energy and greenhouse reductions, water saving, waste minimisation and more sustainable transport, purchasing, gardening and eating. This report presents the achievements of the Sustainable Homes program, outlines the external funding opportunities that have been pursued to date, and reports on the program's success in engaging Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. Three options for continuing the program are presented:

- *Option A* - The Sustainable Homes and Communities Program - an expansion of the current program to support community leaders to work with their communities including awards and incentives to encourage participants to log actions and achievements on a new interactive web site.
- *Option B* - The continuation of the Sustainable Homes Program with ongoing delivery of the current seminar series.
- *Option C* - An Environmental Seminar Series that could be delivered within the current budget but without the behaviour change components of the current Sustainable Homes Program.

Option A which is recommended, is consistent with the stated Council Plan goals of: Leadership and Engagement, Community Wellbeing and Environmental Sustainability, and would require additional annual program funding of \$67,000 which may be partly offset by grant funding.

CONSULTATION:

Sustainable Homes participants including CALD partner organisations, Community Leaders Forum and other community members who participated in the Community Climate Change Action Plan consultation process, Darebin Environmental Reference Group, Cities of Banyule and Whittlesea, Melbourne Behaviour Change Network, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Sustainability Victoria.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- (1) Note the results and achievements of the current Sustainable Homes program.
- (2) Refer consideration of \$67,000 funding for the Sustainable Homes and Communities program, Option A as presented in this report, to the 2010/2011 Council budget process.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

- (1) Note the results and achievements of the current Sustainable Homes program.
- (2) Refer consideration of \$67,000 funding for the Sustainable Homes and Communities program, Option A as presented in this report, to the 2010/2011 Council budget process.
- (3) Continue to explore opportunities to expand this and other programs to Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities and residents on low incomes.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on 6 April 2009, Council considered the achievements of the Sustainable Homes program from 2007 to 2008 and resolved that

- (1) *Council note the results of the Sustainable Homes Program.*
- (2) *Officers continue to pursue external funding opportunities for the continuation of the program.*
- (3) *Council consider a further report in November 2009 regarding options for continuing or modifying the program for 2010/2011 and beyond.*

This report presents an overview of history and outcomes from the Sustainable Homes program, and presents three potential options for continuing the program from the commencement of the 2010/2011 financial year (with seminars to commence in 2011). The current Sustainable Homes program is 70% funded by the Sustainability Fund with \$15,000 annual contribution from each participating Council. The program will be completed in March 2010 with the last seminars and events held in November 2009.

The 2005 Sustainable Homes Program and the Behaviour Change Approach

In 2005 Darebin Council developed and delivered the Sustainable Homes program to engage the Darebin community and achieve integrated and broad-based environmental change across a range of issues (water, waste, energy, sustainable gardening and transport). The use of 'Behaviour Change' tools including identifying and reducing barriers to action and providing incentives and reinforcement to encourage change have been the basis of the success of the program. Behaviour change theory notes that simple information provision is not enough to create the desired outcome.

“Most people know that to protect the environment they should recycle more, water their lawns less, get out of the car and take a multitude of other steps to reduce their ecological footprint.

But as often as not, the actions people take are not consistent with what they know to be true about the state of the environment. In fact, research demonstrates that simply providing information usually has little or no effect on what people do.”

Doug McKenzie-Mohr

Some of the successful aspects of the program include:

- Providing repeated contacts with people and a dedicated Sustainable Homes Coordinator provides a human face for the program and a key contact who supports and encourages participants on their journeys
- Providing multiple options for getting involved
- Building a sense of community
- Using incentives and support to make change as easy as possible
- Removing barriers to change
- Using community champions and real examples of change to 'normalize' the new behaviour and encourage others to get involved and
- Offering the seminar series as an ongoing journey.

The Sustainable Homes Program under the Sustainability Fund Grant and Council Partnership (2007 - 2009):

Based on the 2005 Darebin program, Darebin City Council was successful in 2006 in obtaining a grant to run The Sustainable Homes Program as a three year project funded through the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund, in partnership with Banyule City Council and the City of Whittlesea.

This partnership program began in 2007 by running 27 events across the three municipalities. In 2008, two "inspiration" events and six themed workshops were held at each of the three Councils involved, creating 24 events in all. As seen on the 2008 invitation in **Appendix B**, the events were:

- Showcasing Sustainable Homes (first "inspiration" event)
- Create a Water Efficient Home and Garden
- Being Waste Wise and Buying Green
- Create a Sustainable Workplace
- Create an Energy Efficient Home
- Create a Sustainable Garden

- Sustainable Transport
- Sustainable Homes Tour (final “inspiration” event).

Running from April to November 2009, each event aimed to inspire, motivate and instruct residents to make sustainable changes in their lives; at home, in the workplace and through their transport choices. Participants were presented with case studies of local residents who had already taken steps to live more sustainably, and expert presenters who shared their knowledge and their own experiences of simple and largely inexpensive actions to take, including those that achieve the best environmental outcome. Simple actions can often achieve a large environmental benefit and save money eg. installing a water efficient showerhead.

Participants were invited at the end of the event to make commitments to make their behaviour more sustainable based on the information they had received at that event. In return for a completed commitment form, a limited number of free Sustainability Starter Kits were handed out. These kits contained straightforward and inexpensive items to get residents started at home and lower the barriers to changing to more sustainable behaviour. Residents of the participating Councils were welcome to register to participate in the program at any time throughout the year, and were offered the Australian Conservation Foundation’s GreenHome Guide to assist with tips and self-audits.

The program aimed to **reduce**:

- Household greenhouse gas emissions.
- Household water consumption.
- Waste
- Car based trips.

The program aimed to **increase**:

- Biodiversity
- Sustainable gardens
- Sustainable transport use.

And aimed to:

- Create positive change at participants’ workplaces
- Give participants low cost practical measures
- Build linkages between people within communities around sustainability
- Build and promote community leadership in sustainability
- Remove key barriers to sustainability actions including accessibility/convenience, knowledge and skills
- Encourage the making of commitments to assist in creating change.

Methods of evaluation for The Sustainable Homes Program:

Evaluation of The Sustainable Homes Program has been undertaken every year since the program's pilot. Evaluation has consisted of phone surveys and pre and post surveys in 2005; from 2007 – 2009 a number of evaluation techniques have been employed to measure the aims of the Sustainable Homes Program. Both pre and post program behaviour surveys were sent to all participants, and event evaluation surveys were given to all participants at each event. The program also kept records of attendance, commitments made on free kit forms, lists of volunteers who responded to requests for case studies, and unsolicited feedback via email. All have been drawn on in this report to assess the success of the program. Due to the development of the evaluation methods used it is not always possible to directly compare any two given years. A summary of results from the first two years of the 2007 - 2009 program are presented below - evaluation for 2009 will be finalised in February.

Sustainable Homes Program evaluation findings:

	2007	2008	2009
CO ₂ e (tonnes saved)	1,289	336	Data not yet available
CO ₂ e (cars off the road)	306	80	
Water (Kilolitres saved)	18,374	6135	
Water (60KL backyard pools saved)	306	102	
Waste (tonnes avoided)	27	8	
Waste (80l bins avoided)	341	104	
% of participants who indicate they <i>now have the knowledge and confidence to implement changes in their home or workplace</i>	NA	76%	86%
No. of Events (total)	27	24	21
Total Attendances (across 3 municipalities)	1210	926	1017
Attendances at Darebin events	381	356	386
No of Events in Darebin	9	8	7
Average attendance at Darebin events	42	45	55

The water, waste and energy changes made by participants to their workplaces were not included in the overall measurement savings above, nor were changes participants inspired or encouraged in the lives of family, friends and neighbours. There were also other positive outcomes that are difficult to quantify eg. more people using mulch, planting vegetables, using collected water on their gardens and making environmentally informed purchasing decisions.

Note that results from 2007 and 2008 are not directly comparable as in 2007 a post program evaluation only was conducted (asking participants about their before and after actions) and in 2008 a pre and post evaluation form was undertaken to try and more accurately assess which actions were a direct result of the program.

The significantly higher savings achieved in 2007 also reflects that in 2008 participants in the program were commencing from a higher base - they had already undertaken more actions in their home when they commenced the program. This is probably a reflection of growing environmental concern and action within the community and as a result of Victorian and Australian Government environmental programs - free showerhead exchanges etc, light globe exchanges etc. Significant behaviour changes are still occurring as a result of program participation. This trend of commencing from a higher base has continued into 2009 and a higher proportion of residents indicated they had the knowledge and confidence to implement changes in their home or workplace after participation in Sustainable Homes in 2009.

Darebin attendances have remained high across the three years with an increase in average attendances per seminar in 2009 with the addition of the popular new event *Sustainable Eating*. In addition to

Sustainable Eating, the other most popular events in Darebin in 2009 were *Create an Energy Efficient Home*, and *Sustainable Gardening*, all attracting 57 attendances or greater.

This suggests that there is still a strong demand for the continuation of the program, despite participants having already taken more environmental action in the home when they commence the program.

Other Outcomes - Capacity Building and Promotions

The 2008 program built and promoted community leadership in sustainability - a total of 23 local residents presented across 24 workshops in 2008.

One or two people have asked me to come over and give them advice...and I am no expert just an average member of the public. Email received from a Sustainable Homes Tour host, 2008.

It's a great opportunity to hear about and see what other people are doing. These workshops are interesting and worthwhile. I think the mix of projects, small inexpensive solutions for rental properties up to large renovations is very inspiring. Email from a program participant 2009.

In addition, a number of post-program survey respondents volunteered to be presenters or case studies in 2009. The case studies appeared in local newspaper advertisements, in Council environmental newsletters and on the Sustainable Homes website. The program and case studies have also been well received and covered in the media from local press stories to coverage in the ABC Stateline program.

Engaging Darebin's Diverse Community

Darebin has been successful in engaging culturally and linguistically diverse communities through the partnership component of the Sustainable Homes program. In 2007 the Sustainable Homes Program in Darebin supported the North East Melbourne Chinese Association (NEMCA) to deliver energy and water saving workshops in Chinese with translated written materials. In 2009, support was given to the Preston Elderly Indochinese Group who held four sessions on water, energy, gardening and waste. Presentations and written materials were provided in Vietnamese and attendances, engagement and feedback to date has been very positive.

As part of Darebin's commitment to making events accessible Auslan interpreters have been made available at SHP events. Comments from participants who used the service and other participants were very positive. In addition to the partnerships with NEMCA and the Preston Vietnamese Elderly Group, Northcote High School also partnered with the Sustainable Homes Program to deliver four workshops and a sustainable homes tour to members of the school community.

CORE ISSUES

Darebin's Environmental Education and Behaviour Change Programs

Darebin has a broad range of community environmental programs such as *Community Power*, *Spring into Compost* and *Going Places* that target specific environmental issues or actions to take (ie. sign up to GreenPower, compost or worm farm, reduce car use).

To date the Sustainable Homes Program has been the core behaviour change program that offers an integrated approach across all of the key environmental issues and creates an opportunity for participants to engage in a sustainability journey. The program cross promotes and encourages participation in other Darebin programs as listed above.

Reaching CALD communities

Demographic data from surveys and participation in environmental programs indicates that Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities are under represented in the general Sustainable Homes seminars and other environmental education programs. Over the three years of the Sustainable Homes Program about 11% of participants who took part in the general seminars and events speak a language other than English at home. In Darebin, 39% of the community speak a language other than English at home.

The Sustainable Homes partnership program has been an effective way to address this under representation of the CALD community in the general seminar attendances. In 2009, there were around 120 attendances via the partnership program delivered with the Preston Vietnamese Elderly Group which is equivalent to more than 30% of the general attendances in Darebin. This was also the case in 2007 when the partnership program was delivered with the North East Melbourne Chinese Association.

The benefits of this partnership approach have been reinforced by feedback from Darebin's Ethnic Communities Council asking Council to target, engage, listen and partner with CALD communities more effectively on environmental issues and from the consultation and development of Darebin's Community Climate Change Action Plan.

The partnership approach not only appeals to CALD communities as it is able to target their specific needs, including delivery in the relevant language, it also empowers communities by supporting leaders who help other members in their communities to make changes.

The *'Talking My Language'* program was created to deliver behaviour change programs to targeted CALD groups under the Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan and implementation is commencing this financial year. The Talking My Language program will replace and expand on the Sustainable Homes partnership program. The recommended Sustainable Homes and Communities program would further support engagement of CALD communities through ongoing support of community leaders.

Sustainability Street

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Sustainability Street project began in early 2006, aiming to establish sustainable neighbourhoods in at least 18 areas in Melbourne's northern suburbs, under a three-year, \$500,000 grant from the Victorian Government Community Support Fund. Sustainability Street delivered some positive community development and environmental outcomes but was supported by \$500,000 and its reach was relatively small. The program relies heavily on community champions to inspire and maintain small environmentally active communities based on streets or neighbourhoods. As such is it not as accessible to all residents as the Sustainable Homes Program. *See Summary of major outcomes of the project (Sustainability Street) - Appendix D.* Supporting community leaders was also a key outcome of the consultation of the Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan. Option A 'Sustainable Homes and Communities' program below includes support for leaders and champions who may wish to develop or maintain Sustainability Streets or inspire and encourage environmental action in their community more broadly.

Funding Applications

As per the Council resolution of 6 April 2009, officers have been pursuing external funding opportunities for the Sustainable Homes program and associated environmental education programs i.e. *Talking My Language*. **Appendix A** summarises the three grant applications that have been submitted this year to three separate Victorian Government funding programs. Results of the funding programs are expected to be announced from December 2009 through to April 2010 although timeframes are frequently delayed and may be substantially delayed in the case of a bad bushfire season.

Options for continuing the Sustainable Homes program

The three options for continuing the program are as follows.

Option A: The Sustainable Homes and Communities Program

Option A demonstrates ongoing leadership and development of the program based on the evaluation to date and from community consultation undertaken for the Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan.

A broader cross section of the Darebin community will be reached via:

- Continuation of the seminar series (energy, water, waste, eating, transport and gardening) and free starter kits etc.
- Addition of 'Hands-on' seminars to give people the opportunity to learn skills such as draught sealing in a action learning mode as per feedback from program participants.
- Support for community leaders to engage their communities via resources (fact sheets on DVD etc), networking and capacity building opportunities. Council will support leaders and there will be a flexible approach as to how leaders engage their communities eg. Sustainability Street, running seminars or events, sharing information, inviting attendance at Darebin seminars etc.
- An innovative and interactive website for households and communities to log their actions and achievements on line - this will encourage friendly competition around sustainability, inspire others to take action and will normalise sustainable behaviour.
- Extensive awards and recognition program to recognise community achievements.
- Analysis of results via bill data logged on line

In the Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan consultation, leaders indicated they want to take more of a role and be supported in this work by Council and their peers. This also provides an effective means to reach more people and a broader cross section of the community, including further engagement and support of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities (in addition to the targeted Talking My Language program).

Program Costs: Costs are estimated at \$82,000 per year.

Strengths:

- Allows for a broader and more diverse audience.
- Supports the community leaders as identified as a need via Community Climate Change Action Plan consultation.
- Demonstrates ongoing leadership and development in line with evaluation of the program.
- Celebrates community achievements with Awards nights.

- Through the website bill data can be assessed which may result in more accurate evaluation.

Weaknesses:

- Additional resources needed.
- Potential risk re level of engagement via website.

Option B: The Sustainable Homes Program

This option is based on continuation of the Sustainable Homes Program in its current form - without the partnership component.

The evaluation indicates that we continue to attract significant attendances at Darebin events and delivering good environmental outcomes - although outcomes are reduced compared to 2007 due to the higher starting point of most participants.

Program Costs: Costs are estimated at \$55,000 per year.

Strengths:

- Maintains current program expectations for the Darebin community.

Weaknesses:

- Additional resources needed.
- Failure to reach a wider audience and more diverse audience that may not have achieved the higher starting point we are observing in program participants.

Option C: Sustainability Seminars Series

This Option involves running a seminar series within the current budget. A part-time Sustainable Homes Coordinator could not be appointed and as a result the seminar series would be based on providing information rather than fostering behaviour change. Most of the behaviour change methods including the free starter kits would not be included. Less promotional opportunities would be available for this program. It is anticipated that this option would not return the same environmental outcomes as Options A or B.

Program Costs: \$15,000

Strengths:

- Within current budget

Weaknesses:

- Diminished service level failing to meet current community expectations for day to day service provision for program participants.
- Loss of 'Behaviour Change' methods and therefore environmental outcomes are expected to be reduced.
- Loss of Leadership status for program delivery.

Conclusion and Proposal

There will be a large gap in our environmental education response if the Sustainable Homes program is discontinued and a loss of service provision from the perspective of community expectation. Option C would diminish the quality of the program and resulting environmental outcomes.

Option A is the recommended option. Option A builds on the current program, broadens its reach and meets a need identified by Darebin community leaders. The Sustainability Street model can be accommodated within the program delivery. This model will also support further engagement and support of CALD communities, in addition to the targeted Talking My Language project. The interactive website and awards nights will encourage community participation, enable the collection of more reliable data and celebrate and promote success stories. The seminar series will provide a holistic approach to addressing climate change: water; garden; waste; food; energy; and transport. The 'hands on' workshops add further value by imparting skills at the same time as improving the weather proofing and energy efficiency of community facilities. The Sustainable Homes and Communities program will continue to demonstrate Darebin's leadership position in delivering innovative environmental education programs.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The positive environmental impacts of the Sustainable Homes program are outlined in the body of this report.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Sustainable Homes Program is Darebin's core environmental education program covering a range of themes promoted broadly to all Darebin residents. Participants can benefit from cost savings on energy and water bills in addition to environmental outcomes, capacity building and community building.

Reaching and engaging low income households and vulnerable members of the community on these issues is more challenging however, due to competing demands and immediate priorities. The most effective way to engage low income households is via targeted programs as have been endorsed and funded under the Community Climate Change Action Plan.

The Community Climate Change Action Plan also builds on the successes of the Sustainable Homes Partnership program in working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities via the Talking My Language program which will provide more opportunity for input from each CALD community. The recommended Sustainable Homes and Communities Program (Option A) will further enhance opportunities for engagement from CALD communities via support for community leaders and incentives for existing groups to participate.

Other

The recommended Option A is consistent with the stated Council Plan goals of: Leadership and Engagement, Community Wellbeing and Environmental Sustainability.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The current budget allocation for Sustainable Homes is \$15,000 per year. The recommended Option A would require additional funding of \$67,000 per year and would require either an increase in program funding or reduced funding to other programs. The additional cost would reduce to \$40,000 if successful in obtaining the grant from the Sustainability Fund (as per **Appendix A**).

Likewise to deliver Option B without external funding would require a \$40,000 increase in program funding. Option C could be delivered within existing funding.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Grant outcomes for EcoLiving grant, the Sustainability Fund grant application/s from December - April/May 2010. These timeframes may be extended.
- Continue to implement current Sustainable Homes Program and evaluation and grant acquittal in current form until March 2010.
- Delivery of a range of environmental seminars in the 2010 calendar year within current budget

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin's Community Climate Change Action Plan
- Sustainable Homes 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Draft) Evaluation report

**8.7 WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PROGRESS REPORT
2008/09****MINUTE NO. 18****AUTHOR:** Coordinator Water and Waste Strategy - Sue Phillips**MANAGER:** General Manager, Environment and Amenity - Libby Hynes**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Waste management costs are expected to increase in future years subject to regulatory and industry issues.**SUMMARY:**

Council adopted the *City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy 2007-2014* in September 2007. The Waste Management Strategy sets targets until 2014 focussed on waste avoidance and reduction within Council, households and businesses. This report provides the annual update on progress towards the Strategy's targets.

During 2008/2009, 42% of household waste from Council's kerbside collections has been diverted from landfill, slightly below the 2009 target of 45%. This year green waste recycling has contributed significantly to this shortfall as Council's green waste recyclers closed from mid January 2009 until mid September 2009. If the green waste collected during this period had been processed a total of 46% of kerbside waste would have been diverted from landfill – exceeding the 2009 target of 45%.

Per capita total waste production during 2008/2009 rose by 1% - with an extra 4kgs of waste being produced per person - taking the volume of total waste produced to 359 kgs per person. This includes a per capita 13% decrease in green waste generation (8 kgs), a 1% increase in recycling (1 kg) and a 6% increase in garbage (12 kgs).

While recycling has remained fairly constant and the decline in green waste generation may be attributable to climate change impacts and water restrictions with decreased lawns and altered nature of gardens, the increase in garbage generation indicates that consumption remains an over-riding issue for sustainable waste management.

CONSULTATION:

- Manager Roads Infrastructure
- Coordinator Resource Recovery
- Financial Accountant
- Procurement Officer
- Sustainability Victoria

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan

THAT this annual report on the progress of the Waste Management Strategy be received and noted.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Council adopted the *City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy 2007-2014* in September 2007. The City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy maps a direction towards sustainable waste management in the Darebin community over the seven year period 2007-2014. The strategy includes a range of waste avoidance and reduction objectives plus actions specific to three key stakeholder groups:

- *Council* - Waste avoidance and reduction within Council (Council's commitment and actions towards resource efficient, minimal waste operations.)
- *Households* - Waste avoidance and reduction within households (empowering residents to avoid, reduce and recycle waste.)
- *Businesses* - Waste avoidance and reduction within Business (influencing business to avoid, reduce and recycle waste).

The strategy is aligned with Victoria's Towards Zero Waste Strategy (TZW Strategy) which aims to reuse, recycle and/or convert to energy 75 per cent of Victoria's solid waste by 2014.

CORE ISSUES

Targets have been identified in the Strategy and set for each key stakeholder group - Council, households and businesses. Progress towards achieving these targets in the second year of the Strategy's implementation is as follows:

Council Progress

Council Progress against Targets		
Target	Progress against target 2008-2009	Future Work
65% of solid waste generated by Council activity will be recovered for reuse or recycling by 2014	Audits are to be conducted biennially to assess progress against this target. The first audit, conducted in 2007/2008, indicated that over 80% of waste (by volume) from the Darebin Civic Centre was diverted from landfill.	Biennial audits to continue and office audits to expand to incorporate other Council. Auditing of other Council waste streams – (eg: construction) to be undertaken.
Council spending on	Expenditure on environmental goods as	Continuing quarterly

Council Progress against Targets		
Target	Progress against target 2008-2009	Future Work
goods assessed as having environmental benefit will increase as a percentage of total expenditure by 2014.	a percentage of total expenditure (excluding salaries, depreciation and bad debt) increased from 6.2% in 2007/2008 to 9.7% during 2008/2009.	reporting and provide training to new and existing staff, through Environmental Action Team (EAT) initiatives and order processes, Eco-Buy internet site.
By 2010, all significant contract specifications schedule detail of products and work practices in order to meet sound environmental standards.	Environmental checklists have been developed for buildings and projects. The focus for 2009 has been on building projects. A guideline document for ESD Requirements in Council Buildings was prepared this year complete with an ESD brief for Darebin Council Buildings which will be included in tender documents. Building projects also now include a standard range of efficient fixtures and fittings. Significant works require detailed environmental management plans	Further expand green specifications in all tender documentation, consultants briefs and contract review in accordance with Environmental Purchasing code
Darebin representation and input on or at all key industry waste management organisations and policy development programs.	Councillor and Officer representation at key relevant forums of the Metropolitan Waste Management Group, Sustainability Victoria and Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and Arts. Strong advocacy on extended producer responsibility for e-waste recycling of computers and televisions, container deposit legislation and the development of the National Waste Policy.	Continued Councillor and Council Officer involvement with Committees of the Metropolitan Waste Management Group and other relevant organisations and bodies. Ongoing exploration of opportunities to partner with external bodies to develop waste avoidance and reduction initiatives.

As previously reported an office waste audit was conducted at the Darebin Civic Centre during 2007/2008 indicating diversion of 80% (by volume) of waste from landfill. This includes 76% paper, cardboard and co-mingled recycling, plus an estimated 4% organics collected in kitchens and composted. The waste to landfill stream contained less than 6% (volume) of food indicating diversion of high volumes of waste from landfill.

This achievement was recognised by Sustainability Victoria, who certified Darebin as a Waste Wise Accredited Council based on the audit results. Auditing of waste within council offices will continue to occur biennially to retain and improve on our Waste Wise (Resource Smart) accreditation.

During 2008/2009 a concerted effort to improve organics and recycling diversion from kitchens was undertaken with the introduction of larger dedicated organic and materials recycling. This continues into 2009/2010. Actions to reduce paper consumption were also recently adopted by Council and are being progressively implemented.

Throughout 2008/2009, Council continued to track purchasing of environmental goods. This quarterly tracking enabled Council to report to Eco-Buy Victoria on our progress towards environmental purchasing outcomes.

During 2008/2009 expenditure on environmental goods was \$3.82 million while total Council expenditure (excluding salaries, depreciation and bad debt) was \$39.455 million. Expenditure on environmental goods as a percentage of total expenditure (excluding salaries, depreciation and bad debt) has continued to increase steadily over the past three years from 5.3% in 2006/2007, to 6.2% in 2007/2008, to 9.7% in 2008/2009.

While staff continue to become accustomed to identifying the environmental component in the goods that they purchase, a degree of imprecision is expected to be reflected in these figures. However the rising trends in environmental expenditure indicates improved staff awareness and practices.

The City of Darebin has been actively involved in and well represented at all key waste management industry forums and meetings. Former Darebin Cr Chris Kelly was a Director on the Board of the Metropolitan Waste Management Group (MWMG) until 2009. Cr Tim Laurence has represented Council on the Metropolitan Waste Management Group's Local Government Waste Management Forum from 2009. Council officers were also well represented in Metropolitan Waste Management Group events and Forums.

Household Progress

Household progress against targets		
Target	Progress against target in 2008/2009	Future Work
A sustained downward trend in the quantity of household waste generated and presented at the kerbside for collection as measured by kg per person per year by 2014	Assuming a 1.6%* increase in population based on trends, total household waste generated and presented for kerbside collection during 2008/2009 is 359 kgs per person. This includes increases in recycling and garbage and a decrease in green waste generation and indicates an increase of 4 kgs of waste per person for the year (1%). (*Population data for 2008/2009 has been based on ABS trends and is as yet unconfirmed).	Continued involvement in Metropolitan Waste Management Group and Sustainability Victoria waste local and regional initiatives. Program development for waste reduction at multi-unit developments. Expand waste reduction education initiatives.
Recover 65% of kerbside waste (by weight) for reuse and recycling by 2014. Recover 45% of kerbside waste (by weight) for reuse and recycling by 2009.	42% of kerbside waste (by weight) was recovered for reuse and recycling in 2008/2009, marginally below the 45% recovery target for 2009. Significant impacts were experienced as a result of green waste being sent to landfill and if all green waste generated was processed, the total recovery rate of kerbside waste for reuse/recycling would have been 46%. Council have been significantly involved in advocacy surrounding the development of the Metropolitan Melbourne Northern and Western Councils Green Organics Recycling Contract to progress improved green waste processing. Council are participants in the "Recycle	Actions as indicated above. Continue involvement in "Recycle Right at Home" Program. Achievement of greater recovery rates will depend on regional organic waste processing developments. This relies on continued involvement in MWMG Sustainability Victoria regional initiatives, including the Victorian Advanced Resource Recovery Initiative and

Household progress against targets		
Target	Progress against target in 2008/2009	Future Work
	Right at Home Program” to identify and address gaps in recycling behaviours.	the Metropolitan Melbourne Northern and Western Councils Green Organics Recycling Contract. Consider Kerbside Recycling Services Contract extension.
Recover 60% of waste received at Resource Recovery Centre (by weight) for reuse and recycling by 2010.	48% of waste received (by weight) was recovered for reuse and recycling in 2008/09 at the Resource Recovery Centre.	Continue to work with key partners - Sustainability Victoria, MWMG, Outlook Environmental and others to improve operations and advance waste reuse and recycling opportunities at the Resource Recovery Centre. Increase promotion of site and services offered. Continue Detox your Home and Byteback programs. Continued liaison around federal e-waste recycling program implementation. Potential trial of Hardwaste Optional Tip Pass (HOTpass).

Household Waste Generation

During 2008/2009 little change occurred across Darebin in relation to commingled recycling (plastic, glass, cans, paper). With slightly less than a 1kg increase, recycling rates remained relatively constant at approximately 115kgs of recycling per person during the year. However, during the same period, the amount of green waste that was generated for recycling decreased from 58kgs to 50kgs per person, yet each person produced 12kgs more of garbage. This resulted in 4kgs more total waste produced per person for the year.

For the municipality, residential kerbside collections indicate:

- 12% decrease in green waste generated (6,965 tonnes total)
- 2% increase in recycling (15,992 tonnes total)
- 8% increase in garbage collected (27,205 tonnes total).

When considering this from a per capita perspective the trends remain the same but the percentage change is slightly altered. Using a 1.6% population increase for the year (assuming previous ABS population data trends) there was a:

- 13% decrease in green waste per capita (8 kgs decrease)
- 1% increase in recycling per capita (1 kg increase)

- 6% increase in garbage collected per capita (12 kgs increase).

While recycling levels have remained fairly constant, the decline in green waste generation may be attributable to climate change impacts and water restrictions with decreased lawns and altered nature of gardens. Garbage generation however continues to increase, indicating that consumption remains the over-riding issue in sustainable waste management. Additionally there may have been some transfer of green waste to garbage due to the failure of the green waste contract during the period and the transfer of green waste to landfill.

Household Waste Recovery – Green Waste and Recycling

Despite the growth in garbage, as a municipality, Darebin has diverted 42% of its waste from landfill, recovering it for reuse or recycling. However, if all green waste generated by residents had been recycled, 46% of Darebin's waste would have been diverted from landfill. Without the cessation of green waste recycling during this period, the 2009 target for 45% waste recovery for reuse or recycling would have been achieved.

While waste reduction and recycling continue to be key community education messages, procuring a green waste service with longevity and strong end product outputs is a vital element for future green waste processing.

Over the past nine years, Council's green organics processing contract has been subject to a number of issues. Many of these issues derive from the lack of adequate available green waste processing facilities in metropolitan Melbourne.

In early 2009, Council's green waste processing sub-contractor went into liquidation. Ultimately the site was closed until the new managers were able to clean up the site to a safe standard. As a result of this, between 16 January and 14 September 2009, Darebin's municipal green waste was sent to landfill – excluding a two month period when one-third of Darebin's green waste was diverted to the SITA Brooklyn facility for processing.

While the landfill site used by Council captures and uses up to 70% of greenhouse gases generated from the landfill to create renewable energy, Council's preference was to return to green waste processing as quickly as possible.

Green waste processing recommenced in mid September 2009, however, the cessation of green waste processing impacted significantly on Council's ability to recycle and reuse kerbside waste and divert it from landfill during 2008/2009 – and effecting our overall diversion from landfill rate.

During 2008/2009, Council has participated in the initial tender development for a long-term regional green organics recycling contract for eleven Councils in the northern and western municipalities of metropolitan Melbourne. This contract has the potential for new green waste processing facility development, which would provide more stability for green waste processing for the next ten to fifteen years.

In addition to green waste kerbside collections, data from the latest Darebin Household Survey (2007) indicated that 36.5% of Darebin households carried out home composting and of those who don't 12.6% intend to within the next five years.

Home composting may be used supplementary to - or in place of - the green waste kerbside collection. Home composting is strongly supported by Council via the provision of subsidised worm farms and compost bins. Sales of worm farms and compost bins in 2008 calendar year reached 573 – taking the total sold by Council between 2004 – 2008 to 4160 worm farms and compost bins, further supporting waste reduction initiatives.

During 2008/2009 Council signed on to become participants in a partnership program between the National Packaging Covenant, Sustainability Victoria, the Metropolitan Waste Management Group and other metropolitan Councils to the “Recycle Right at Home Program”. The aim of this two-year program is to identify and address gaps in recycling behaviours, engaging residents at home to inform this program. Expected outcomes of this program are improved recycling behaviours, decreased recycling contamination and improved diversion from landfill.

Extension of Council’s *Recyclable Collection Service Contract* (CT 0349) currently in place with Thiess Services is currently under consideration.

Resource Recovery Centre

The Darebin Resource Recovery Centre offers further opportunities for Darebin residents to recycle waste. During 2008/2009 48% of waste received (by weight) was recovered for reuse and recycling at the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre.

With the completion of the new Resource Recovery Centre Recycling Shop in October 2008, a small increase in recovered items sold through the shop was seen. In 2007/2008 36 tonnes of recovered items were sold through the shop which increased to 38 tonnes during 2008/2009.

Work with key partners continued throughout this period, to improve operations and further advance waste reuse and recycling opportunities. The existing partnership with Sustainability Victoria and Outlook Environmental for the Detox Your Home program continued. Detox Your Home provides a free recycling and safe disposal service for household chemicals and household toxic waste (eg: batteries, fluorescent lights, gas bottles, paint, and motor oil).

The ByteBack trial recycling program continued throughout 2008/2009 – providing free recycling of computers and associated components. With the recent announcement under the National Waste Policy of the introduction of a national computer and television recycling scheme, recovery rates associated with these items are expected to increase – especially as Council currently does not offer television recycling and particularly in light of the phase out of analogue televisions by 2013. The current Byteback program has been extended through to 30 June 2010 in partnership with Sustainability Victoria and is expected to continue throughout the 2010 calendar year until implementation of the federal program commences.

Opportunities to improve recovery rates and increase patronage of the site are currently under investigation. An initial focus is to increase promotion of site and services offered such as Byteback, Detox Your Home and the Recycling Shop. The launch of the public art work using recovered articles from the waste stream in September 2009 is one such activity to support this.

In addition to selling recovered goods at the shop, a “Free to Good Home” initiative commenced in July 2009 where furniture and other bulky items with no resale market are given away. This is anticipated to continue and will support further reduction of waste to landfill.

In September 2009, Council received a report on the potential of a trial Hardwaste Optional Tip Pass (HOT pass) which would enable residents to drop off their waste at the Resource Recovery Centre themselves, in lieu of a kerbside hardwaste collection. The introduction of this trial will be considered in the mid-year budget review and if approved would be included in future work in this area.

Business Progress

Business Progress Against Targets		
Target	Progress against target in 2009	Future Work
Complete an issues and options paper for improved waste recovery/recycling services for small to medium enterprises (SMEs)	Recycling survey with SMEs completed.	Cost-benefit analysis and development of issues/options paper. Potential impacts and outcomes from paper to be investigated in liaison with Council's contracted recyclers.
Darebin SMEs will be provided detailed information on resource recovery and recycling options	Development and implementation of this item dependent on outcomes and recommendations above.	Development and implementation of communications plan, resources and education materials as appropriate.

An issues, attitudes and needs survey has been conducted with small to medium enterprises (SMEs) as a first step into undertaking the feasibility of considering a Council sanctioned business recycling service option. A cost benefit analysis of potential service provision, with input from Council's contracted recyclers, will be undertaken and used to inform the final issues/option paper. This is scheduled to occur in the first half of 2010.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Council, through the Waste Management Strategy, is committed to sustainable waste management. Actions and recommendations of the Waste Management Strategy have strong environmental foci and outcomes.

The primary drivers behind the actions of the Waste Management Strategy are waste avoidance and reduction, improved recycling and reuse and decreased waste to landfill, which supports State Government Towards Zero Waste Strategy and the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan.

As waste in landfill generates approximately 3% of Australia's total greenhouse emissions, continued vigilance around waste management – particularly organic waste recovery – continues to be a vital environmental outcome.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Council provides a broad selection of waste management services to our community. Many of these services are provided with no additional associated fees, ensuring they are accessible across the residential community. Larger garbage bin permit costs are waived or reduced proportionate to household size and/or health/medical requirements.

Green waste processing is available to all residents on an optional paid basis. A rebate is available for those with Pensioner Concession Cards or Health Care Cards.

Other

The Waste Strategy and Progress report are consistent with Council's commitments under the Council Plan 2009-2013.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Collection and processing of waste costs Council over \$5.5 million annually. Increases to waste disposal and recycling processing costs are anticipated in the near future due to legislation changes, potential landfill levy increases and participation in organic waste and/or Alternate Waste Technology processing as outcomes of the Victorian Advanced Resource Recovery Initiative. These issues will be the subjects of future reports to Council as appropriate.

All Waste Management Strategy activities from 2008/2009 were within budget with the exception of the increased costs associated with green waste recycling and Darebin Resource Recovery Centre management.

Detailed activities such as the SME options paper which may have budget implications for future years, will inform future budget processes and planning.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Future actions will include:

Continued focus on waste avoidance and reduction within Council:

- Focus on Council waste reduction will include expansion of office audits to incorporate other Council sites, biennial auditing of sites to maintain and improve on Waste Wise (Resource Smart) Accreditation, development of waste reduction framework for Council construction works.
- Continued quarterly reporting and staff training in environmental purchasing, ongoing review of reporting system, continued reporting to Eco Buy.
- Further expand green specifications in all tender documentation, consultants briefs and contract review in accordance with Environmental Purchasing Code.
- Continued advocacy on key waste issues impacting on local government and our communities and ongoing involvement with key waste management stakeholders (MWMG, Sustainability Victoria, Municipal Association of Victoria).

Continued focus on waste avoidance and reduction within households:

- Improve data collection and monitoring systems to enhance waste management – especially to support contamination reduction.
- Participation in “Recycle Right at Home Program” to identify and address gaps in recycling behaviours.
- Continued involvement in regional green waste contract negotiations to develop long-term green organics recycling solutions.

- Continued involvement in key regional and local waste management initiatives developed with key stakeholders eg: Victorian Advanced Resource Recovery Initiative, Regional Green Waste Contract Development etc.
- Expansion of waste and litter reduction education with particular focus on recycling contamination in public housing / multi unit developments.
- Continue work with Outlook Environmental improve operations and advance waste reuse and recycling opportunities at the Resource Recovery Centre.
- Investigate value-adding opportunities to reuse items deposited at Resource Recovery Centre in preference to landfilling (eg: timber).
- Continue Outlook Environmental's "Free to Good Home" large and bulky furniture initiative.
- Continue free *DeTox Your Home* program for chemical recycling and safe disposal in partnership with Sustainability Victoria and Outlook Environmental.
- Continue *ByteBack* free computer recycling, in partnership with Sustainability Victoria and Outlook Environmental until implementation of federal e-waste recycling program (including televisions).
- Potential implementation of trial Hardwaste Optional Tip Pass (funding dependent).
- Report to Council on Kerbside Recycling Services Collection Services Contract - CT 0349 currently in place with Thies Services to collect Darebin's kerbside recycling

Continued focus on waste avoidance and reduction within businesses:

- Complete business (SME) recycling review including cost benefit analysis
- Develop information for Darebin SMEs on resource recovery and recycling options.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy
- City of Darebin Environment Policy
- City of Darebin Environmental Purchasing Code
- Darebin City Council Climate Change Action Plan
- Darebin City Council 2007 Household Survey
- Kerbside Recycling Services Reveal Contract CT 0350
- Recyclables Collection Service Contract CT 0349
- Victorian Government Towards Zero Waste Strategy
- Victorian Government Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan

**8.8 TOWARDS A DIGITAL INCLUSION STRATEGY –
INTERNET FOR ALL****MINUTE NO. 19****AUTHOR: Manager Economic Development - Sue La Greca****MANAGER: Director Planning and Development - Michael Ballock****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Costs to be referred to the 2010/2011 budget process as a new initiative.****SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 5 October 2009, Council requested that officers prepare a concept brief on a wireless network for Darebin that could provide free or low cost internet access to residents, schools, business and make Darebin parks and public spaces accessible internet zones. The brief was to identify the rationale behind having a municipal wireless network and the opportunities for Darebin residents, schools, activity centres and businesses. The concept plan to explore whether it is a worthwhile strategy for Darebin Council to pursue, and if appropriate, suggest how a feasibility study would be conducted.

This report considers the internet access study tour, being undertaken mid next year by Cr. Greco and the linking-in of information gathered on this tour into the concept plan.

This report also provides background information on internet access and different models of internet availability. It concludes that to advance the consideration of a Darebin Digital Inclusion Strategy, a project group comprising a nominated Councillor, Council officers and selected external experts should be established to:

- a) Consider the findings of Cr Greco's study tour occurring mid next year
- b) In consideration of these findings, manage a scoping exercise that will lead to a concept brief and if appropriate, a feasibility or pre-feasibility study
- c) Establish an indicative cost for this scoping exercise and any resultant work
- d) Prepare the brief to engage an external consultant to undertake (b) above
- e) Refer the cost of the scoping exercise to the 2010/2011 Council budget process as a new initiative.
- f) Manage the development of the scoping exercise, resultant report and recommendations

CONSULTATION:**Internal:**

General Manager City Development
General Manager Corporate Services
Manager Information Services
Manager Darebin Libraries
General Manager Environment and Amenity

Manager Social Inclusion and Diversity

External:

La Trobe University
Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT) Infoxchange
Education Department of Victoria
City of Auckland, New Zealand
City of Parramata, New South Wales
City of Sydney, New South Wales
City of Perth, Western Australia

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- (1) Note the information in this report.
- (2) Approve the formation of a project management group comprising a nominated Councillor, Council officers and selected external experts to advance the consideration of a Darebin Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- (3) Endorse the project management group to:
 - a) Consider the findings of Cr. Greco's study tour occurring mid next year
 - b) In consideration of these findings, manage a scoping exercise that will lead to a concept brief and if appropriate, a feasibility or pre-feasibility study
 - c) Establish an indicative cost for this scoping exercise and any resultant work
 - d) Prepare the brief to engage an external consultant to undertake (b) above
 - e) Refer the cost of the scoping exercise to the 2010/2011 Council budget process as a new initiative.
 - f) Manage the development of the scoping exercise, resultant report and recommendations.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT Council:

- (1) Note the information in this report.
- (2) Approve the formation of a project management group comprising Cr. Gaetano Greco, Council officers and selected external experts to advance the consideration of a Darebin Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- (3) Endorse the project management group to:

- a) Consider the findings of Cr. Greco's study tour occurring mid next year
- b) In consideration of these findings, manage a scoping exercise that will lead to a concept brief and if appropriate, a feasibility or pre-feasibility study
- c) Establish an indicative cost for this scoping exercise and any resultant work
- d) Prepare the brief to engage an external consultant to undertake (b) above
- e) Refer the cost of the scoping exercise to the 2010/2011 Council budget process as a new initiative.
- f) Manage the development of the scoping exercise, resultant report and recommendations.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 5 October 2009, Council requested that officers prepare a concept brief on a wireless network for Darebin that could provide free or low cost internet access to residents, schools, business and make our parks and public spaces accessible internet zones. The brief was to identify the rationale behind having a municipal wireless network and the opportunities for Darebin residents, schools, activity centres and businesses. The concept plan to explore whether it is a worthwhile strategy for Darebin to pursue, and if appropriate, suggest how a feasibility study will be conducted.

A number of cities around the world have created wireless networks to provide free or low-cost or commercially rated access to the internet for their residents. These wireless internet cities have effectively turned specified areas into internet "hotspots".

The internet and other digital technologies are important for employment, the provision of information, education, social networking and economic development. A number of cities are using high speed internet access as one of their key economic development attractors while others use it to address social inclusion.

The Digital Inclusion Initiative (DII) in Australia, is a whole-of-community effort, being tackled by the not-for-profit organisation, Infoxchange, and its eleven corporate partners. Two disadvantaged communities in the City of Yarra have already benefitted from DII. These are Atherton Gardens Estate in Fitzroy and Collingwood Public Housing Estate. Economic analysis on the benefits of DII have been measured by management consulting firm A.T. Kearney as follows:

- Since its inception in 2002, DII has generated \$5.9 million of benefits to residents and the broader community in the Atherton Gardens, through internet employment, education, communications and improvements to health and wellbeing.
- Infoxchange not only provides low cost wireless internet access but also trains unemployed youth to rebuild computers, upload software and install computers in homes so that residents have the necessary hardware, software and internet access. Internet access is provided by Infoxchange through a mesh-block network. They have recently commenced new programs in Collingwood and East Timor.

Darebin has a lower level of internet access than that for the rest of Melbourne and, as the table below shows, this is particularly so for Kingsbury and Reservoir. The lower rates of internet access in Darebin correlate strongly with areas of high levels of socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA).

Broadband access is lower for all Darebin suburbs compared to the rest of Melbourne. The different rates of internet access within Darebin are most likely due to income disparity within the municipality. While the UK and USA have similar levels of internet access to Darebin, they have much higher levels of Broadband access.

Type of Internet Connection by Darebin Suburb

	No Internet	Broadband	Dial Up	Other	Type of connection Not Stated
Fairfield	33.4%	36.8%	19.1%	0.6%	9.9%
Northcote	32.1%	41.0%	18.8%	0.5%	7.2%
Thornbury	36.3%	35.4%	17.4%	0.4%	10.3%
Preston	40.3%	33.6%	15.5%	0.5%	9.9%
Reservoir	41.9%	36.4%	14.%	0%	9%
Kingsbury	45.4%	39.3%	15.2%	0%	7.5%
Darebin	39.7%	34.5%	15.9%	0.5%	9.2%
Melbourne	31.5%	42.7%	17.7%	0.5%	7.5%
Victoria	34.3%	38.5%	19.4%	0.5%	7%
Australia	34.1%	37.2%	20.4%	0.5%	7.5%

Cat 2068.0 – 2006 Australian Census Tables

	No Internet Access	Broadband	Other
UK	39%	51%	10%
USA	38.3%	50.8%	10.9%

UK National Statistics Omnibus Survey, 2007 & US Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, November 2007

Increased internet access or “internet access for all” has significant economic, social and environmental benefits to the residential community and the business community. Consequently one of the reasons for providing internet access is to promote social equity, community development, environmental sustainability and economic development.

Cr. Greco has recently been awarded a study grant by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to travel to Canada to research the provision, appropriate technology, implementation, cost, usage policy and other related issues of wireless internet services. This study tour is planned for mid 2010 and the findings will provide valuable input into the assessment of a Digital Inclusion Strategy for Darebin.

CORE ISSUES

The critical question to ask is whether Local Government should be the provider, sponsor or partner, or have any role in the provision of affordable wireless internet?

Some examples of the current availability of wireless internet are provided below:

The City of Darebin

Free wireless internet is available at all four Darebin libraries in Reservoir, Preston, Northcote and Fairfield during library opening hours. Opening hours are extensive, with Northcote and Preston open seven days per week and Fairfield and Reservoir open six days per week. Use of the library internet requires library membership which is free and open to anyone with identification. Users are provided with a logon and password by library staff. Usage is very popular, with an estimated average number of daily users at any one library being 25. During the February 2009 bushfires, the top number of wireless internet users in a day was 45. Most wireless users utilise the internet for long periods of time and so require a power point, as most laptop batteries run for about 2 hours. Usage is most popular amongst school, TAFE and university students and particularly overseas students, presumably because it is free and they are not required to have an internet plan applied to a fixed address. There is no time restriction on usage and restrictions on access are controlled by a program called “Websense” which prevents access to sites considered to be inappropriate in a public place. The library wireless system allows emailing from and to most email systems, (except Outlook) allows internet browsing but generally not downloading unless downloading is allowed by the specific website. Most music and films cannot be downloaded.

Darebin library staff report that the free wireless internet is very popular and successful and has captured a new library client group.

Other Council facilities where free wireless internet is available are:

- Darebin Arts & Entertainment Centre – only for clients who have booked the centre for a function, not for the function attendees
- Reservoir Civic Centre – for Youth Services projects and for groups who have hired the function room
- Northland Youth Facility – only for youth programs – leaders and participants

The City of Auckland, New Zealand

The City of Auckland has initiated a WiFi roll out which is currently focussed on the CBD but is intended to extend to a city wide coverage. The stimulus here was one of economic development, to provide easy internet access to the capital city and especially to the harbour area for use by ships and yachts, where tourists and yachting enthusiasts can have easy access to information that will encourage them to spend their money in Auckland and boost business development. They have developed a “walled garden” system whereby certain internet sites are available free of charge, for example, Council / community information, government sites, public transport timetables, weather reports, traffic reports etc. Once someone leaves a free site to enter a non-free site then they are charged at commercial rates. The system is provided commercially and pays for itself. The only investment by the Council is the employment of approximately 1.2 EFTs (equivalent full-time staff). One Council officer is responsible for the technical development and support and one is the Chairperson of the Auckland Digital Working Party. This group comprises representatives from government, business and community. The Chairperson is happy to meet or talk with anyone from Council to discuss further.

The City of Parramatta, Sydney, NSW

The City of Parramatta is currently investigating the provision of affordable wireless access for all its residents as an economic development and social inclusion initiative. They have recently spoken with the City of Amsterdam who have affordable wireless internet as does their neighbouring municipality Almere. The hardware and software is provided by a private provider. Amsterdam view this initiative as one that will have benefits relevant to social inclusion, information access for all, community connectedness, greater local government efficiencies (e government) economic development, environmental sustainability and reduced traffic congestion as more people can work from home. For example, approximately 70,000 people per day commute from the City of Almere to the City of Amsterdam for work. A pilot internet access program in Almere has meant that there has been a significant reduction in this number as people are encouraged to work from home for one, two, three or more days per week. This means less cars on the road therefore less pollution and better traffic conditions. Amsterdam is investigating whether this has led to any reduction in business to cafes, restaurants, shops etc. but as yet the impact does not appear to be significant.

Parramatta will be continuing to talk with Amsterdam and are happy to share information with Darebin.

The City of Sydney, NSW

The only free wireless internet access available in the City of Sydney, is through the libraries and community centres. There is no complete coverage other than that provided by commercial operators.

Perth CBD, Western Australia

Wireless internet access has been provided across approximately 25% of the City. It was initiated by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy (a private organisation) however they are no longer involved and it is now operating privately by a US company. It is run commercially with no subsidies or low-cost options.

Infoxchange

Infoxchange is a not-for-profit company with a mission to provide low cost computers and wireless internet access to socially disadvantaged areas. As previously mentioned they have done this in the social housing areas of Collingwood and Fitzroy with estimated benefits since 2002 in the order of \$6 million. They are currently preparing to run a similar program in East Timor. They also have a “walled garden” where free access is provided to a number of sites relevant to community information, public transport, government, education and training, health etc. They have applied for funding from the current round of the Federal Government Jobs Fund to extend their program to Broadmeadows, Heidelberg and East Reservoir.

Education Department of Victoria

All schools in Victoria are provided with WiFi Internet access. Students have to logon with a logon ID and password. Access policy is a management issue for each individual school. . Contacts at the Education Department are happy to discuss matters further with Darebin if required.

La Trobe University

La Trobe University has free WiFi internet for all students on all campuses. Students logon with a unique ID and password. Downloading films and music is prevented. There are no other restrictions on internet usage but all usage is traceable.

Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT)

NMIT received a grant from the Federal Government to establish WiFi across all campuses being Preston, Fairfield, Epping, Greensborough and Heidelberg. Students logon with their logon ID and password. There are no policies regarding restrictions on use but all usage is traceable. Staff at NMIT are happy to discuss matters further with Darebin and provide assistance if appropriate.

Advantages of Affordable Wireless Internet Access

Affordable wireless internet access can provide:

- Easy communication between residents
- Greater information easily available to residents
- Communication between business
- Communication between residents and business
- A mechanism for CALD communities to connect to each other or back to their homelands via VOIP or internet based telephony
- Economic stimulus. “Melbourne’s North – The New Knowledge Economy” states that access to the internet is a major component to develop and take advantage of the knowledge economy, bringing the benefits of economic resilient jobs to more people
- Greater and cheaper capability for some residents to work from home therefore reducing pollution and traffic congestion
- An improved or alternative form of engagement between the community and Council through telecasting of Council meetings, consultation forums etc
- Digital CCTV for security
- Video analysis of traffic counts of pedestrians and vehicles, parking infringements, illegal dumping of rubbish, street furniture usage etc
- Remote monitoring of health conditions, for example, the Parramatta City Council in NSW is currently investigating the feasibility of providing wireless internet access for all and working with Westmead Hospital on an online health check for their residents.

Disadvantages of Affordable Wireless Internet Access

- High cost of provision borne by local government or through a public / private partnership or some other funding model
- Rapidly changing technology is difficult and costly to keep up with
- Difficult to determine the best or most appropriate ISP
- Difficult to determine the most appropriate expertise to engage in a concept brief, feasibility study, project analysis and implementation plan
- Local government could simply be competing with the National Broadband Network, scheduled to be rolled out in approximately 8 years. And therefore consideration should be given to waiting for this initiative from the federal government and avoiding any duplication of effort and cost
- WiFi is the most commonly used technology but it is best suited to localised internet provision and less suitable for municipal wide wireless internet provisioning at consistent quality
- The issues of unsuitable content becoming available to children etc. if unrestricted access is made available.

There are questions that need further and in-depth consideration and the following is a list of some of them:

- Is the consideration of providing affordable wireless internet access being driven by social equity issues or economic development issues?
- Should Council provide the infrastructure?
- Should the aim be for municipal wide access or specific area access?
- Should the starting point be municipal wide on a commercial basis and then as a second stage address low cost options for low income areas?
- Opportunities for a public / private partnership?
- Consideration of the “walled garden” model where free access is provided to community information sites and other access is provided on a user pays basis? The Auckland example suggests that this model can be cost free to Council or at least cost free to operate but Council may pay fully or partly for the set up
- Should Council consider a social equity model like those delivered by Infoxchange or an economic development model, with social equity as a second tier or could both be done simultaneously?
- Technological considerations – WiFi, Meshnetworks or Wimax?
- Budgetary consideration – the adoption of a low cost model with a public private partnership should be investigated
- Careful consideration needs to be given to information provided by the private sector as there is an obvious commercial interest
- Independent / objective information could be available from the education sector, eg. La Trobe University or NMIT
- Possible sources of external funding to be investigated.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The expansion of internet access can assist environmental sustainability in a number of ways, such as:

- Enabling people to work and conduct transactions from home therefore reducing transport related carbon emissions and traffic congestion.
- Providing an efficient method of information dissemination and sharing, allowing residents and businesses to easily learn and share information about sustainability actions and products.
- As environmental sustainability is a new science, with new developments occurring at a rapid rate, the most up to date information on new developments and case studies is available predominantly online and not in hard copy. Lack of easy or convenient access to the internet is therefore a handicap in facilitating communities and individuals to consider or take up environmental initiatives
- Convenient internet access facilitates online environmental support networks and “free cycling” (exchange or donation of goods as an alternative to throwing them out).
- Energy and greenhouse emissions related to the expansion of internet access would need to be explored and considered.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

- Internet access facilitates social inclusion and community development. People can easily communicate, organise events, social activities etc. It allows people to easily keep in contact with friends and relatives interstate and overseas or just located too far away for convenient travel. The internet allows instant contact and a mechanism for culturally and linguistically diverse communities to connect to each other or back to their homelands via VOIP or internet based telephony.
- While information is available in hard copy as well as online, ready access to the internet is a significant advantage compared to having no or limited access.
- Internet access is particularly useful to residents who may be house bound, either permanently or temporarily.

Other*Economic Development*

- Easy communication business to business, business to resident, resident to business, student to educational institution etc.
- Most job applications are now advertised online and many applications are expected via email. Position descriptions, company information and other relevant material for the job applicant are readily available online.
- Facilitates e commerce, such as ordering online, online banking, online salaries and wages etc.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of developing a concept plan and feasibility study on internet access for all in Darebin will be determined by the project management group and referred to the 2010/2011 Council budget process as a new initiative.

FUTURE ACTIONS

In attempting to draw together the information gathered on wireless internet access, it is apparent that this is a relatively new and complex field of technology that is also changing at a rapid pace. Issues such as understanding the complexities around WiFi, Wimax and mesh – block networks, when to use which technology and how to update with new developments, as well as the costs and possible costing/funding models are complicated and require in depth research and investigation. In addition to this, one of the critical questions to address is whether this is an area of service provision for local government? While there are many issues to consider, the simple philosophy of making internet access affordable for all is one that is worthy from a social equity viewpoint.

To advance the consideration of a Darebin Digital Inclusion Strategy, a project group comprising a nominated Councillor, Council officers and selected external experts could be established to:

- a) Consider the findings of Cr. Greco's study tour occurring next year
- b) In consideration of these findings, manage a scoping exercise that would lead to a concept brief and if appropriate, a feasibility or pre-feasibility study
- c) Establish an indicative cost for this scoping exercise and any resultant work
- d) Prepare the brief to engage an external consultant to undertake (b) above
- e) Refer the cost of the scoping exercise to the 2010/2011 budget process as a new initiative.

- f) Manage the development of the scoping exercise, resultant report and recommendations.

The cost for the scoping exercise would need to be referred to the 2010/2011 Council budget process as a new initiative

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Draft Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013
- Darebin 2007 Household Survey
- ABS census data
- Melbourne's North – The New Knowledge Economy
- http://www.freewifi.com.au/region_vic.php - Existing WiFi hotspots in Victoria
- <http://www.freeaustraliawireless.com/2008/06/14/municipal-wifi-20-community-wifi-10/>
- <http://www.city.milwaukee.gov/WiFiMap4431.htm>

8.9 AUSTRALIAN MADE AUSTRALIAN GROWN**MINUTE NO. 20****AUTHOR: Coordinator Business Development - Phill Loader****MANAGER: Manager Economic Development - Sue La Greca****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Within current budget****SUMMARY:**

The Australian Made Australian Grown (AMAG) campaign provides the public with the means to identify locally made products. This has a number of positive effects including, creating local jobs, boosting the local economy and reducing carbon emissions. Council has become a Campaign Supporter of AMAG.

CONSULTATION:

Australian Made Australian Grown
Darebin Businesses
Bean Alliance
Financial Services – City of Darebin
Communications – City of Darebin

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note this report regarding the Australian Made Australian Grown campaign.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT Council note this report regarding the Australian Made Australian Grown campaign and endorse Darebin Council joining the Australian Made Australian Grown campaign as a supporter.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Australian Made campaign plays a key role in assisting consumers to identify locally made products. Since 1999, the Australian Made Campaign Limited (AMCL) has administered the campaign. AMCL is a not-for-profit company set up by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a network of State and Territory chambers of industry.

A significant addition to the Australian Made campaign occurred in 2007 with the addition of Australian Grown, hence, the Australian Made Australian Grown (AMAG) campaign. There has been strong support for the campaign from the fresh and packaged produce industry, as an effective way to identify Australian grown produce.

The ability to identify and purchase Australian made goods and Australian Grown produce has a number of positive effects. It creates local jobs, boosts the local economy, improves the standard of living and helps reduce carbon emissions. Research has shown that the ability to identify and purchase Australian made and Australian grown goods is of high importance to Australian consumers. Research undertaken by Roy Morgan in late 2006, showed that more than two thirds of Australian consumers want to buy Australian and do so “whenever possible” or “often”. Use of the AMAG logo is well recognised and well used overseas which assists to increase Australia’s export income.

For goods to be promoted with the AMAG logo there is a two part compliance test. This test is defined in the Trade Practices Act and the AMAG Code of Practice. The use of the Trade Practices Act provides a strong legislative base for the use of the AMAG logo. Licensees agree to be bound by the rules and conditions that relate to record keeping and are subject to audit by AMAG

CORE ISSUES

For organisations that wish to be associated with the campaign and make a corporate statement about their support for Australian Made Australian Grown products, the options are to become either a campaign partner or supporter. Campaign partners are generally businesses that seek to promote Australian made and grown goods wherever possible. Companies that are campaign partners include; Bev Marks Furniture, Harvey Norman, QANTAS, Coles, Woolworths and Blue Scope Steel.

Campaign supporters are generally smaller organisations than campaign partners and simply wish to support the AMAG campaign and have this support recognised and promoted. A number of Local Councils have recently joined the AMAG campaign as supporters. These include the Cities of Ballarat, Melbourne, Hume, Moreland, Horsham and the Shire of Mornington Peninsular. The City of Darebin has now joined this group in showing its support for local manufacturing, and the fresh and packaged food industry, a significant employer and export earner for Darebin and Melbourne’s Northern Region as highlighted in “Melbourne’s North – the new Knowledge Economy”. A link to the campaign is a strong statement by Councils wishing to demonstrate a leadership role and a commitment to facilitating investment, economic development and prosperity in their municipalities.

The importance of supporting local business is recognised in the Local Business Framework that is an element of the City of Darebin Procurement Policy and Guidelines. Membership of AMAG will not only identify Council as an organisation that recognises the importance of local jobs and actively seeking to grow the local economy, but will also provide links with the local manufacturing community. Section 186(6) of the Local Government Act 1989 requires Council to “Wherever practicable ... give effective and substantial preference to contracts for the purchase of goods, machinery or material manufactured or produced in Australian or New Zealand.” As a Campaign Supporter, Council is able to display the AMAG logo that is a clear indication of Council’s support and preference for locally produced products.

There are 18 businesses in Darebin that are AMAG licensees, and this number is likely to grow as the AMAG logo receives greater promotion.

Darebin’s commitment to the AMAG campaign will be recognised:

- Through a media launch and dedicated press release announcing this new relationship
- On the AMAG website (1.5 million hits per month) with a link to the Darebin website
- Through a joint seminar for Darebin businesses, explaining how to gain a competitive advantage, both domestically and internationally, using Australian Made Australian Grown branding
- In the Australian Made, Australian Grown Newsletter
- On a certificate presented to Council
- By providing a keynote speaker from AMAG for a Business Networking Breakfast.

Darebin will be invited to provide input on the Campaign’s future directions, and participate in programs such as the AMAG export project. Darebin will be authorised to use the green and gold Australian Made Australian Grown logo on Council material and use AMAG promotional material and banners.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

As a Campaign Supporter of Australian Made Australian Grown, Council is making a clear demonstration of commitment to local business. Imported products make a significant contribution to green house emissions as a result of the distances they are transported. By supporting Australian products and the Darebin businesses that are committed to AMAG, Council is showing that there is a recognition of the importance of local production in reducing green house emissions.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The encouragement of local production sustains and improves employment for the diverse community that makes up Darebin.

Other

Costs relating to becoming a Campaign Supporter for the current year have been met from within the Economic Development Budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within current budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

There will be a launch to recognise the City of Darebin's support for the Australian Made Australian Grown Campaign in 2010.

8.10 DAREBIN HERITAGE STUDY**MINUTE NO. 21****AUTHOR:** Strategic Planner - Maree Fewster**MANAGER:** Director Planning and Development - Michael Ballock**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within budget**SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Heritage Study is now at a stage of implementing some of its key findings and recommendations via amendments to the Darebin Planning Scheme. Stage 2 of the Darebin Heritage Study has identified 119 individual places of significance and 28 precincts of significance. A place of state significance has been identified but further consultation will need to be undertaken before it is presented to Council. Some of these places of significance have been included in other planning scheme amendment proposals for heritage overlay application, such as Amendment C68 affecting the Preston Central Activity Centre. Application of the Heritage Overlay to the identified heritage sites and precincts via a planning scheme amendment would be the appropriate next step in the study process to implement the Stage 2 findings. Authorisation to prepare a planning scheme is required from the Minister for Planning under Section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Update Council on the current status of the *Darebin Heritage Study*;
- Present to Council the key findings of completed stages of the *Darebin Heritage Study*;
- Recommend that Council adopt the *Thematic Environmental History* report and the *City of Darebin Heritage Study: Volume 3 Key Findings & Recommendations* report; and,
- Recommend that Council resolve to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare amendments to the Darebin Planning Scheme to implement Stage 1 and Stage 2 findings of the Darebin Heritage Study.

CONSULTATION:

- Darebin Heritage Study Reference Committee
- Darebin Heritage Study Steering Committee
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC)
- Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC)
- Various community groups and stakeholders
- Darebin residents
- Council staff

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT Council:

- (1) Notes the progress on the *Darebin Heritage Study* and adopts for the purposes of preparing Amendments C107 and C108 to the Darebin Planning Scheme, the following reports:
 - *City of Darebin Heritage Study, Stage 1, Volume 1: Thematic Environmental History*;
 - *City of Darebin Heritage Study, Stage 1, Volume 2, Historical Archaeology Report*; and
 - *City of Darebin Heritage Study, Stage 1, Volume 3, Key Findings & Recommendations*
- (2) Resolves to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare Amendments C107 and C108 to the Darebin Planning Scheme to, respectively, apply interim and permanent heritage controls, in accordance with Section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

On 20 April 2009, Council received a progress report on the *Darebin Heritage Study* which advised that Stage 1 (including a Thematic Environmental History) and Stage 2 (which identifies new individual places and precincts of heritage significance) were almost complete. Council was also advised that work on the remaining stages of the *Darebin Heritage Study* had already commenced and that a planning scheme amendment to protect the individual places and precincts identified as being of heritage significance was being prepared.

Under section 8A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council needs to request authorisation from the Minister for Planning to prepare an amendment to the Planning Scheme.

Background to the Darebin Heritage Study

Previous heritage studies had focussed mainly on the southern end of the municipality. The need for a more comprehensive and diverse study was identified in 2007. Until the current study, the following had not been undertaken:

- Systematic assessment of the larger northern portion of the Darebin City Council area for heritage significance;
- Natural heritage; and
- Pre-European contact Koorie significance in Darebin .

The current *Darebin Heritage Study* was initiated to address these gaps and broaden the assessment and conservation of heritage places within the municipality, in keeping with Council's commitment to heritage planning and the *Municipal Strategic Statement* directions. In 2007, Context Pty Ltd was appointed to prepare the *Darebin Heritage Study*.

CORE ISSUES

The scope of the *Darebin Heritage Study* is particularly broad and has been divided up into five main stages which are concurrent and overlapping. The stages and the progress of the *Darebin Heritage Study* are summarised in Figure 1.

The work associated with Stages 1 and 2 (Thematic Environmental History, and identification and assessment of heritage places) was completed by Context Pty Ltd in 2007 – 2008. Stage 2 comprises Stage 2a, the *Pre-Contact Aboriginal Heritage Archaeological Report* which has recently been completed. A report to Council will be prepared when this draft report is satisfactorily reviewed.

Context Pty Ltd is currently working on Stage 3 which comprises a review of previous heritage studies by Andrew Ward and Stage 5 (Natural Heritage Work). Stage 4 involves the implementation of findings detailed in Context's work for Stages 2a, 3 and 5 via future planning scheme amendments.

Amendments C107 and C108 to the Darebin Planning Scheme propose to implement the findings and recommendations of Stages 1 and 2 (highlighted in Figure 1). Amendment C107 will propose interim heritage controls which will immediately take effect whilst Amendment C108 which proposes permanent identical controls goes through a formal process of exhibition of the amendment for a calendar month; receipt and consideration of submissions; and a panel hearing and reporting processes.

What heritage places have been identified?

A number and variety of places of heritage significance have been identified in Stages 1 and 2 of the *Darebin Heritage Study*. The wide variety of places identified range from period houses to post-war dwellings, cemeteries, bridges, and parks. While many of these places are located in the northern parts of the municipality that had not been previously assessed for heritage, many new heritage sites have also been identified in the southern parts of the municipality. The individual sites are listed **Appendix A** while the precincts are listed in **Appendix B** to this report. A place of state significance has been identified but further consultation will need to be undertaken before it is presented to Council. Some of these places of significance have been included in other planning scheme amendment proposals. Some of the heritage precincts in Preston, for example, have been included in Amendment C68 affecting the Preston Central Activity Centre. Full details are contained in the Context Pty Ltd report entitled *City of Darebin Heritage Study: Volume 3 – Key Findings & Recommendations*.

How have the heritage places been identified?

The assessment and identification of heritage places has been undertaken in accordance with Heritage Victoria guidelines. Full details of the methodology of the *Darebin Heritage Study* are found in the draft *City of Darebin Heritage Study: Volume 3 – Key Findings & Recommendations*.

Thematic Environmental History

Heritage Victoria stipulates that local government heritage studies should be staged. The first stage comprises a Thematic Environmental History of the area which provides the basis and context for the identification and assessment of places of heritage importance. Thematic Environmental Histories should not be regarded as static documents and should be reviewed throughout the course of a heritage study. Accordingly, the Darebin Heritage Study Thematic Environmental History remains in draft form and would be reviewed and updated until the completion of the Study. The Darebin Thematic Environmental History is not intended as a complete social or political history of the municipality. It is a history organised according to themes so as to provide a context to assist with the identification of heritage places that illustrate the rich natural and cultural history of the study area.

The main themes identified in the Darebin Thematic Environmental History are 'Creating Darebin', 'Peopling Darebin', 'Transport and Communications', 'Developing Darebin's Economies', 'Building Suburban Darebin', 'Governing', 'Community and Culture' and 'Darebin's Natural Heritage'. These eight key themes and the stories that contribute to them, determine the potential places of heritage significance. Heritage places of a great variety of eras and cultures have been assessed and identified in the *Darebin Heritage Study*. These reflect the rich natural and cultural history of Darebin as drawn out in the Thematic Environmental History.

Identification and Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance

In accordance with Heritage Victoria guidelines, heritage places are identified as being of either local or State significance. As the names suggest, a place of local significance is one that is significant to the City of Darebin as a whole, while a place of State significance is one that is significant to the State of Victoria. Places of local significance can also be important at a regional or state level.

As defined by Heritage Victoria, a place with cultural heritage significance may have aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural heritage significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects.

In keeping with these principles and guidelines specified by Heritage Victoria, significant heritage places were identified in Stage 2 of the Darebin Heritage Study. For each place identified, a citation was prepared which includes a Statement of Significance. Each Statement of Significance clearly describes:

- *What is important about the place* – what elements contribute to its significance: buildings, trees, objects, views, etc.;
- *How it is important* – in terms of its historic, aesthetic/architectural, social, technical, spiritual or other values; and,
- *Why it is important* – What historic themes does it demonstrate? Is it a good or representative example of its type? Who is it associated with? Is it valued by the community?

Community Participation

Community participation was a key element throughout Stages 1 and 2 of the Darebin Heritage Study and assisted greatly in identifying places of heritage value to people across the City of Darebin. Consultation activities included:

- *Community Reference Group*

A Community Reference Group was established, consisting of key community and agency stakeholders to assist throughout the project. The Community Reference group harnessed local knowledge of an area to ensure community involvement and 'ownership' of the Study.

- *Community Workshops*

Community workshops were held to assist with the development of the Thematic Environmental History framework and with identification of places of potential significance. When places and precincts of potential heritage significance were identified, further Community Workshops were advertised in the media. Participants were given the list of identified places and requested to provide feedback and indicate any places that may have been missed.

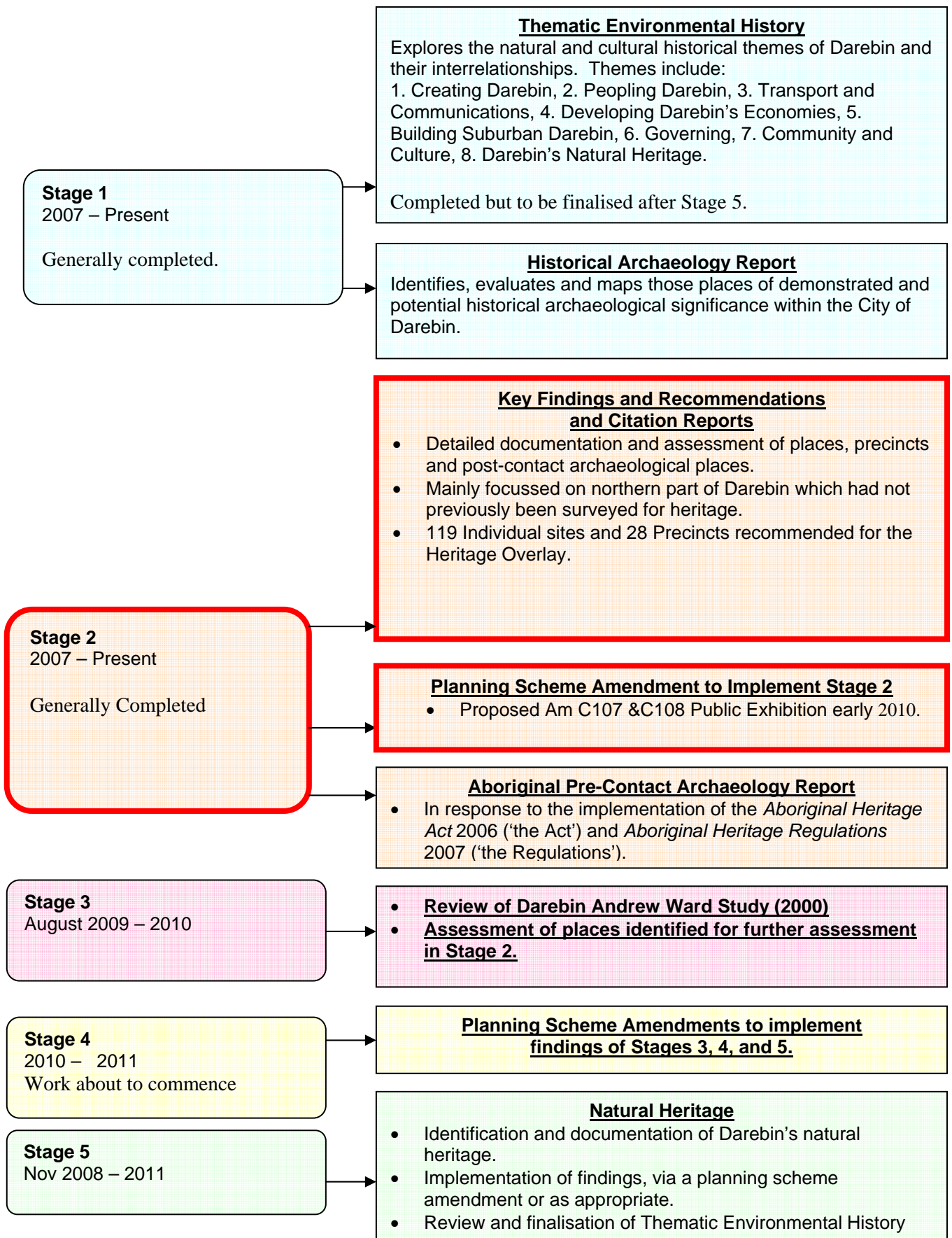
- *Meetings*

Meetings with various stakeholder groups were held to ensure all aspects of heritage were adequately considered.

- *Post*

Letters were sent on 3 February 2008 (prior to field work commencing) to all owners of potential places of significance advising them that their property(ies) had been identified in Stage 1 and would be researched by Context in more detail as part of Stage 2 of the Study.

FIGURE 1: SUMMARY OF THE DAREBIN HERITAGE STUDY



Why are planning scheme amendments for interim and permanent controls needed?

Council would be aware that some of the sites identified as having heritage significance in the *Darebin Heritage Study* have been the subject of redevelopment or demolition proposals. Statutory heritage controls need to be in place to protect the identified sites of heritage significance.

Council can apply to the Minister for Planning for interim heritage controls if a potential heritage site is under direct threat of demolition. This has happened a few times in the past year to sites, such as, 418 Murray Road, Preston and the Northcote Bowl sites. Applying for interim heritage controls on a site by site basis is a time consuming and expensive process for Council.

It is difficult for Council to apply interim heritage controls for sites of individual significance and even more difficult for sites located within a precinct. It is more efficient and effective for Council to apply municipal wide heritage controls to individual heritage places and precincts via a single process. It is therefore critical that a planning scheme amendment is prepared and placed on exhibition as soon as possible.

The process of applying permanent heritage controls may take over a year from the time of an initial request is made to the time permanent controls are in place. Interim heritage controls under Amendment C107 will also be applied simultaneously to enable protection of the sites identified until the permanent controls proposed under Amendment C108 are in place. This is the standard practice when heritage controls are proposed for inclusion in planning schemes.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Conservation of places of heritage is about achieving sustainability. The Heritage Study achieves inter-generational equity, one of the principles of ecologically sustainable development by ensuring that places of significance inherited from past generations are passed on to future generations in good condition. The Heritage Study ensures that there is re-use of places of significance which would otherwise be left derelict or demolished.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Darebin Heritage Study includes a pre contact aboriginal archaeological study.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within budget

FUTURE ACTIONS

Council officers will write to the Minister for Planning requesting authorisation to prepare planning scheme amendments, C107 and C108. Council will be advised via monthly reports when authorisation to prepare the planning scheme amendment has been received from the Planning Minister.

Pending authorisation, the amendments will then be prepared and placed on public exhibition in accordance with the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Minutes (18 December 2006), Item 8.8: *2007 City of Darebin Heritage Study – Outline for Process and Request for Councillor Representative on Steering Committee*.
- Council Minutes (2 April 2007), Item 7.1: *Darebin Heritage Study Progress Report and Endorsement of Terms of Reference*.
- Council Minutes (4 June 2007), Item 7.6: *Darebin Heritage Study Reference Committee Terms of Reference and Progress Report*
- Council Minutes (17 December 2007), Item 7.6: *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and its Implications for the City of Darebin*.
- Council Minutes (20 April 2009), Item 7.4: Darebin Heritage Study Update.
- *City of Darebin Heritage Study Volume 1 – Thematic Environmental History*, Context Pty Ltd (October 2007)
- *City of Darebin Heritage Study, Stage 1, Volume 2, Historical Archaeology Report*
- *City of Darebin Heritage Study Volume 3 – Key Findings and Recommendations: Draft Stage 2 Report*, Context Pty Ltd (August 2008)

**8.11 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DAREBIN
GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY, AND
THE DAREBIN GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT WORKING
GROUP**

MINUTE NO. 22

AUTHOR: Community Safety Officer - Natalie McGlone

MANAGER: Manager Family, Youth and Community Support - Dean Griggs
General Manager, Communities and Culture - Jan Black

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: As detailed in report

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary and progress report of the Darebin Graffiti Management Policy 2008 and Graffiti Management Strategy 2008-2012, and a summary and progress report of the activities of the Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group.

The City of Darebin's Graffiti Management Policy 2008 and Graffiti Management Strategy 2008-2012 articulate Council's long-term plan and commitment to reducing graffiti in Darebin to enhance perceptions of public safety. Both documents outline Council's stance in relation to the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007, and promote a coordinated graffiti management response across Council, combined with an approach that encourages the community to take responsibility for graffiti prevention, reporting and clean up, particularly in relation to private property.

The City of Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group assists the implementation of Council's Graffiti Management Policy and Strategy. The Working Group is a subcommittee of the Darebin Local Safety Committee that was formed in late 2006 to coordinate a partnership approach to respond to graffiti vandalism in Darebin. The Darebin Graffiti Management Working group meets quarterly and is chaired by Council's General Manager City Services. The group is comprised of a wide range of representatives across Darebin with an interest in graffiti management including Victoria Police, Yarra Trams, Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM), the Department of Justice, local trader associations, VicRoads and internal Council officers from Youth Services, Arts and Cultural Development, Community Access, Health and Safety, Economic Development, Roads Infrastructure, Facilities Maintenance, Darebin Parks and Local Laws.

CONSULTATION:

Darebin Local Safety Committee
Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT Council notes the progress of the City of Darebin Graffiti Management Policy and Graffiti Management Strategy 2008-2012 in its first year of implementation, and the activities of the Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group over the past twelve months.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND***Graffiti and perceptions of public safety*

It is widely recognised that graffiti is a crime that adds to the perception of disorder and lack of social control within a given area, and can distort understandings regarding actual levels of community safety and crime rates.

The City of Darebin receives approximately 600 reports of graffiti vandalism each year, most of which refer to illegal tags or scrawls on property. Extensive research and consultation undertaken during the development of Council's Graffiti Management Strategy and Policy reveal that residents in Darebin typically maintain a zero tolerance stance on tag graffiti. However residents generally tend to be supportive of community art projects provided that they are undertaken in an appropriate location and in dialogue with the community. It is widely recognised in Darebin that community art can effectively reduce the occurrence of tagging, deter potential graffiti vandals, and complement the character and identity of local areas.

Council's response to graffiti management

The City of Darebin's graffiti management approach responds appropriately to residents' perceptions of graffiti and community safety by incorporating a focus on reducing unsightly graffiti vandalism, with an emphasis on maintaining support for diversionary community art programs. The approach draws a distinction between art and vandalism by emphasising that graffiti is marking property without permission from the relevant property owner, is generally unwanted by the broader community and constitutes a criminal act, whereas community art is undertaken with consent, in an appropriate location, and in close dialogue and consultation with the community.

City of Darebin Graffiti Management Policy and Strategy

As outlined in the Graffiti Management Policy and Strategy, Council's plan for reducing graffiti is based on an evidence-based, three pronged graffiti management approach which focuses on: *graffiti prevention; clean up and enforcement of the criminal law*. The following principles guide Council's response to graffiti:

1) Maintenance of public amenity

Council is committed to maintaining perceptions of safety in public areas and ensures the routine removal of graffiti from Council facilities, parks and roads infrastructure. Reported offensive graffiti on public property is rapidly removed, in accordance with environmentally sustainable development principles.

2) Promoting community responsibility for graffiti management

Effective graffiti management involves a whole-of-community response. Therefore, Council operates a range of programs that seek to develop the capacity of the community, including residents, businesses and community organisations to understand graffiti culture and its impact on community safety; and to providing information and resources to assist the community in effectively preventing and removing graffiti.

3) Supporting youth engagement and diversionary programs

While not all graffiti artists are young people, 70% of graffiti offenders passing through the court system are juvenile suggesting that young people are at risk. Therefore, Council coordinates graffiti education and partnership initiatives involving young people that focus on discouraging young peoples' involvement in graffiti culture such as education initiatives involving the police, and art projects that are coordinated by Council's Youth Services unit and designed to divert tag graffiti artists and encourage community pride.

4) Support for community art projects and artists

The City of Darebin is committed to assisting the aspirations of artists in Darebin, including aerosol artists who do not engage in the illegal culture of graffiti, by participating in projects for the creation of community art. Community art projects such as murals create a sense of ownership by the community over public spaces, enhance perceptions of safety, and can often prevent illegal tagging.

5) Enforcement of the law and participation in sentencing schemes

While Council approves of community art that has been produced with consent and is supported by the local community, Council fosters a zero tolerance approach to the criminal act of graffiti. Council enforces relevant provisions under the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 with regard to the sale of aerosol spray paint cans to minors, and rapid removal of graffiti on residential and commercial private property. Council also works in partnership with the police to track and prosecute graffiti vandals.

CORE ISSUES

Council's Graffiti Management Policy is currently being implemented across the whole of Council. To date it has assisted the development of a clear, coordinated approach to the removal of graffiti on Council-owned property by City of Darebin staff, and facilitated a movement at Council whereby all graffiti removal is undertaken in accordance with environmentally sustainable development principles.

In relation to Council's responsibilities and powers under the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 Council has not fined any traders for the illegal sale of spray paint cans. However Council has utilised its powers under the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 to remove offensive graffiti on privately-owned residential and commercial private property on 12 occasions since October 2008.

Review of Council's Graffiti Management Strategy

The Graffiti Management Strategy encompasses a 4 year action plan with 20% of the actions outlined in the Strategy complete and the remaining 80% of actions in progress. Key achievements of the Graffiti Management Strategy in its first year of implementation include the following:

- Provision of available web based information regarding graffiti prevention and removal methods, graffiti reporting, environmentally sustainable methods of graffiti removal, and information about the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 for young people and traders.
- Use of Council's Asset Management System (CAMS) to collect data relating to graffiti on Council owned property and assets. Since October 2008 Council received 745 requests from residents to remove graffiti including 274 requests to remove graffiti on Council land and 471 requests for graffiti removal on private property. Council staff responded to each of these graffiti reports by directing them to the appropriate Council business unit for action, or to the relevant organisation that could provide graffiti removal assistance.
- Improved systems for graffiti reporting to Council by residents via the implementation of Customer and Asset Management System (CAMS).
- Distribution of 750 environmentally friendly graffiti removal kits, and graffiti prevention information to local traders in Fairfield, Preston and Reservoir.
- Ongoing implementation of Council's Graffiti Management Subsidy Program to residents, which supplies property owners with either a voucher for paint, a graffiti kit or a subsidy towards the cost of hiring a contractor to assist in graffiti removal. Since October 2009 the City of Darebin has provided residents with 284 graffiti removal kits, 87 vouchers for paint, and provided 65 residents with assistance to remove graffiti from their property by hiring a Council approved contractor.
- Establishment of standards across Council whereby officers only undertake graffiti removal in accordance with environmentally sustainable development principles, and only utilise contractors who remove graffiti by environmentally friendly means.

Key achievements of the Graffiti Management Working Group

The Graffiti Management Working Group has played a key role in the implementation of Council's Graffiti Management Strategy. The following collaborative initiatives have been undertaken since the endorsement of the Graffiti Management Strategy by Council in October 2008:

- Undertaking of graffiti education programs involving a number of schools in Darebin.
- Removal of over 55,000 square metres of graffiti in Darebin by the Department of Justice Graffiti Removal Program, which is a program whereby a team of low risk fully supervised

offenders remove graffiti from Council property two days a week as part of their court imposed orders. This program is a partnership initiative between the Department of Justice and Council.

- Establishment of processes whereby the Department of Justice Graffiti Removal Program removes graffiti from frequently vandalised Council property on a routine maintenance basis.
- Establishment of 'zero tolerance to graffiti' zones at selected Council properties and assets that are frequently targeted by graffiti vandals.
- Provision of 750 graffiti removal kits and information to traders in Station Street Fairfield, Edwardes Street Reservoir and High Street Preston, in a joint initiative between Council and local trader associations.
- Extensive graffiti clean up of the commercial precinct on Victoria Road in Northcote adjacent to Westgarth Street. This initiative involved the removal of over 40 square metres of graffiti.
- Collaborative work with Darebin District Police to assist in the prosecution of two graffiti vandals in late 2008.

Other key initiatives of the Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group

The following key initiatives of the Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group are in progress or ongoing:

1) Northern Regional Graffiti Network

In August 2009 the City of Darebin demonstrated leadership in the field of graffiti management by working in partnership with staff at the Department of Justice to establish a regional graffiti network in the northern suburbs. The Network is comprised of local government representatives in the northern metropolitan region, state government representatives and officers from key public transport and utilities companies.

The Network meets quarterly to discuss graffiti management issues, approaches, contacts and resources, to establish a strategic regional graffiti management focus and develop partnerships across municipal boundaries. The first Northern Regional Graffiti Network meeting was hosted at the City of Darebin on 18 August 2009 and chaired by Council's General Manager City Services. The City of Darebin will play an ongoing role in the coordination of the network.

2) Youth Art Project in Leamington Street in Reservoir

Council staff have sought to establish a number of appropriate sites across Darebin for the creation of community aerosol art by young people in a safe, supervised environment. In August 2009, the wall near the netball courts on Leamington Street in Reservoir which is frequently vandalised with unsightly graffiti, was nominated as an appropriate place for young people to adopt as an art space.

Council staff consulted with the community about the proposed youth community art project by phone, post and through installing an information board at the site between August and September 2009. The consultation also included directly contacting community groups who currently utilise the space nearby the netball courts. No negative feedback or concerns were received in relation to the initiative, rather, the community was highly supportive of the proposed project. The Youth art project was launched in October 2009 as part of a suite of events held during Community Safety Month.

Managing Graffiti on Signal Boxes

Whilst positive progress is being made across a range of initiatives, graffiti on traffic signal boxes has recently been raised as an issue in Darebin. There are 71 traffic signal boxes in Darebin, the majority of which are managed by VicRoads. Approximately one-third (26) of the traffic signal boxes are the direct graffiti management responsibility of Council.

To deter graffiti on traffic signal boxes, Council is seeking to collaborate with VicRoads in piloting a traffic signal box community art project in 2010. The project will involve the application of creative designs by local artists to five traffic signal boxes in Thornbury. As there is significant planning involved in consulting and creating appropriate designs for the community art project, it is anticipated that the initial pilot project will take 6-12 months to be implemented.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Council will continue to undertake all graffiti removal in accordance with environmentally sustainable development principles, utilise environmentally friendly contractors and disseminate environmentally friendly graffiti removal solutions and clean up materials to residents upon request.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Council will continue to implement the Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy in accordance with social inclusion principles through the provision of accessible, translated materials to Darebin's diverse community.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The strategic actions of the Graffiti Management Policy and Strategy will continue to be funded through existing Council operating budgets. The pilot signal box art project will cost approximately \$2,500 which will be funded within existing budgets.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Council staff will continue to liaise with VicRoads to plan and develop a traffic signal box community art project to be piloted in Thornbury in 2010.
- Council's Community Access, Health and Safety Unit staff will continue to facilitate quarterly Darebin Graffiti Management Working Group meetings, and implement the Darebin Graffiti Management Policy and Strategy as appropriate.
- A progress report on the achievements of the Darebin Graffiti Management Policy and Strategy will be provided to Council on an annual basis.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007*
- City of Darebin. 2005, *Improving Perceptions of Safety in Darebin: a review of the evidence.*
- City of Darebin 2008, *Graffiti Management Policy*
- City of Darebin 2008, *Graffiti Management Strategy*
- City of Darebin 2006-2015, *Public Art Strategy*

8.12**COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME REVIEW****MINUTE NO. 23****AUTHOR:** Senior Policy Officer, Communities and Culture - Sharyn Scott**MANAGER:** Manager Family Youth and Community Support - Dean Griggs**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Included in 2009/2010 recurrent Council Budget**SUMMARY:**

Council is committed to working in partnership with community organisations to build our local community strength. Community initiatives include projects that add to our cultural wealth, our community's health and wellbeing and opportunities for participation in community life.

Council has undertaken an extensive review of the Darebin Community Grants Scheme. This review was informed by representatives of more than 80 local community organisations. Recommendations presented will strengthen the program with a close alignment to Council's commitments, clearer defined grants offered to community groups and more opportunity for groups to come together and share with other groups and Council.

CONSULTATION:

The Community Grants Scheme Review Recommendations below bring together the wisdom of more than eighty representatives of community organisations, key Council advisory committees as well as significant experience and insight of Council officers from across many branches of the organisation.

Stakeholder groups consulted:

- Darebin City Councillors (Briefing Session)
- Community Grants Committee
- Council Advisory Groups
- Community Grants Review Working Group
- Representatives of community organisations

Council Advisory Committees consulted:

- Darebin Environmental Reference Group
- Darebin Health Steering Committee
- Darebin Best Start Reference Group
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee
- Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT Council adopt the recommendations presented in the “Community Grants Scheme Review 2009” attached as **Appendix A** to this report, to be implemented for the 2010 Community Grants Scheme funding round.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

The Community Grants Scheme is recognised as one of the most significant community building activities undertaken by Council. Council is committed to ensuring that the program remains an efficient and effective grant program for the benefit of our local communities. The Community Grants Scheme has undergone an extensive review, the aim being to ‘improve the Community Grants Scheme to ensure that it contributes to community building in the context of good governance’.

CORE ISSUES**Value of the Community Grants Program**

Community organisations enrich our lives. They encourage participation in social and economic life and provide opportunities for the sharing of passions and interests and the development of skills. They offer support and access to important services. Community organisations are broadly understood as ‘organisations that operate for a community or social purpose, are self governing, independent of government, and do not distribute profits’¹. The strength of community organisations lies in their diversity. Community organisations reach far into our community and play many valuable roles.

Accepting that supporting community organisations is worthwhile, the value of Council’s involvement with community organisations multiplies when we consider Council’s relationship with community organisations. Our capacity to meet identified community needs, support local networks, encourage participation in community life and facilitate innovation is strengthened via the development of meaningful partnerships with community groups.

Hence, the value of Council’s Community Grants Scheme is greater than just the dollars allocated. It develops partnerships between Council and communities and strengthens community engagement and community capacity.

¹ Victorian Government 2007: Stronger Communities Organisations Project: Report of the Steering Committee

Scope of the Community Grants Scheme Review

The scope of the review was to consider how the current program can be improved in light of the existing structures of Council budget; submission based funding and staffing resources. The review will achieve its outcomes within the limitations of existing funding cycles and seek Council decision on any significant changes in time for the next grant round (2010/2011).

The scope of the review concentrated on the Community Grants Model and Framework. This includes the program structure, what grants are available and design of assessment criteria.

Others elements of this review include reviewing the governance structures and assessment processes of the grants, consideration of the 3 year recurrent funding stream of community grants, access to Council facilities and the inclusion of capital funding into the community grants program.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

A recommended community grants category is environmental sustainability. Therefore the community grants program will encourage community organisation initiatives related to the care and protection of our environment.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

A recommended principle of the community grants program is to 'actively work towards social inclusion, that is ensuring every person has a chance to develop themselves and participate fully in community life'. Several grants criteria support this principle prioritising applications that work towards social inclusion.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This review does not have budget implications for the 2009/2010 recurrent budget. Future budget increases will be made by internal budgetary submissions via Council's adopted budget processes.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The Community Grants Scheme will be relaunched in early 2010 reflecting the changes to grants and categories adopted by Council. A subsequent end of round review will consider the impact of changes on the Community Grants Scheme in late 2010.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Community Grants Scheme Review 2009: Draft Recommendations – see **Appendix A**.

8.13 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND 'GENERAL BUSINESS' ITEMS OUTSTANDING

MINUTE NO. 24

AUTHOR: Council Business Coordinator – Ron Downes**MANAGER:** General Manager Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

This report provides a summary of the status of reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at November 2009.

CONSULTATION:

Executive Management Team

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. T. Laurence

THAT the status report on Reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at November 2009, attached as **Appendix A** to this report, be received and noted.

CARRIED**REPORT****CORE ISSUES**

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

A schedule of the reports and actions outstanding as at November 2009 is attached as **Appendix A**.

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

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The next status report will be submitted to Council at its meeting on 1 February 2010.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Minutes of previous meetings of the Council.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS**10.1 TRAFFIC ISSUES IN GREEN STREET NORTHCOTE****MINUTE NO. 25****COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar**

THAT officers arrange a meeting with residents of Green Street Northcote regarding various traffic, parking and amenity issues.

CARRIED**10.2 PROPOSED DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER****MINUTE NO. 26****COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence****SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar**

THAT Council form a community newspaper feasibility committee and appoint Crs. Vince Fontana, Tim Laurence and Diana Asmar as councillor representatives.

The community newspaper feasibility committee will investigate the production and distribution of a new Darebin community newspaper (including on-line publication and distribution), and will be supported by Corporate Services Department (Communications Unit) with the delegated power to:

- (1) Develop a brief for expressions of interest for the production and distribution of a new Darebin community newspaper.
- (2) Call for expressions of interest and short list potential suppliers.
- (3) Develop recommendations to Council on funding models for the newspaper through adjustments to the Council's advertising and communications budgets that can be considered in the mid-year budget review process.

- (4) Recommend to Council a final supplier or organisation to facilitate the production and distribution of a monthly Darebin community newspaper across the City.

The community newspaper feasibility committee will meet on 22 December 2009 at 3pm and report back to the first Council meeting in February 2010.

CARRIED

10.3

SAFETY ISSUES - MARY AND BRUCE STREETS PRESTON

MINUTE NO. 27

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. N. Katsis
SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan

THAT officers prepare a report by the first Briefing session/Council meeting of 2010 outlining what safety measures can be implemented at the corner of Mary and Bruce Streets Preston to reduce speed and negate what could be deemed 'hoon' behaviour.

CARRIED

SEASONS GREETINGS

The Mayor, Cr. Fontana, wished everyone present a safe and merry Christmas.

11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

CLOSE OF MEETING

MOVED: Cr. D. Asmar
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

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 and personnel matters:

- 11.1 Tender for the Lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse – CT0997
- 11.2 Tender for the Reconstruction of Gadd Street Northcote – CT200915
- 11.3 Tender for the Reconstruction of Emmaline Street Northcote – CT200914
- 11.4 Tender for the Reconstruction of McCracken Avenue Northcote – CT200918
- 11.5 Land at Rear of Joan and Mountbatten Courts, Reservoir
- 11.6 Preston Library Surrounds Improvement Project – CT200911
- 11.7 Tender for the Reconstruction of Christmas Street Fairfield – CT200919

- 11.8 Right of Way (Road) Discontinuance Adjoining 10 and 12 Kennedy Street and 10 and 12 Rayment Street Fairfield
- 11.9 Extension of Recyclables Collection Service Contract - CT0349
- 11.10 Extension of Contract for the Provision of Cleaning Services for Council Facilities – CT0670
- 11.11 Provision of Transactional Banking Services - CT0565
- 11.12 Report of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee

CARRIED

Cr. Tsitas temporarily left the meeting – 8.44pm.

Jan Black, General Manager Communities and Culture left the meeting – 8.44pm.

The Council meeting was closed to members of the public at 8.45pm.

The Council considered and resolved on:

- ***Item 11.1 (Tender for the Lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse – CT0997)***
- ***Item 11.2 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Gadd Street Northcote – CT200915)***
- ***Item 11.3 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Emmaline Street Northcote – CT200914)***
- ***Item 11.4 (Tender for the Reconstruction of McCracken Avenue Northcote – CT200918)***
- ***Item 11.5 (Land at Rear of Joan and Mountbatten Courts, Reservoir)***
- ***Item 11.6 (Preston Library Surrounds Improvement Project – CT200911)***
- ***Item 11.7 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Christmas Street Fairfield – CT200919)***
- ***Item 11.8 (Right of Way (Road) Discontinuance Adjoining 10 and 12 Kennedy Street and 10 and 12 Rayment Street Fairfield)***
- ***Item 11.9 (Extension of Recyclables Collection Service Contract – CT0349)***
- ***Item 11.10 (Extension of Contract for the Provision of Cleaning Services for Council Facilities – CT0670)***
- ***Item 11.11 (Provision of Transactional Banking Services – CT0565)***
- ***Item 11.12 (Report of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee)***

which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 17 December 2009 with the Council Agenda Paper or Friday 18 December 2009.

During the closed meeting, Cr. Asmar disclosed a conflict of interest in Report Item 11.2 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Gadd Street Northcote – CT200915), Report Item 11.3 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Emmaline Street Northcote – CT200914), Report Item 11.4 (Tender for the Reconstruction of McCracken Avenue Northcote – CT200918) and Report Item 11.7 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Christmas Street Fairfield – CT200919) and left the meeting while the matters were considered.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

MOVED: Cr. N. Katsis

SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

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

CARRIED

The Council meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 9.16pm

CONFIDENTIAL**11.1 TENDER FOR THE LEASE OF THE EDWARDES LAKE
PARK BOATHOUSE – CT0997****MINUTE NO. 28****AUTHOR: Acting Manager, Asset Strategy – Anita Craven****MANAGER: General Manager, Community Assets & Leisure – Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Nil.****SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse, Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir for the purposes redeveloping the building and conducting a café / restaurant from the premises.

This report provides the outcome of the tender for the lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse (CT0997).

Council deferred consideration of this item when it was previously submitted on 16 November 2009.

CONSULTATION:

General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Property Manager, Property Management
Project Officer, Major Projects
Jones Lang LaSalle

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That consideration of the matter be deferred to enable further information and discussion at the next Councillor Briefing Session.”

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.2 TENDER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GADD STREET
NORTHCOTE – CT200915**

MINUTE NO. 29

AUTHOR: Major Works Officer – Paul Marino**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** The total cost of the project is estimated at \$272,556.00 (excl GST).**SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the reconstruction of Gadd Street Northcote, from St Georges Road to Spencer Street. This work involves concrete kerb and bluestone pitcher channel and asphalt overlay works.

This report recommends that the tender of J & C Constructions Pty Ltd be accepted.

CONSULTATION:

Ward Councillors (Concept Plan)
Residents of Gadd Street (Concept Plan)
General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Manager Open Space Planning
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing
Transportation Planning Unit

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) *The tender of J & C Constructions Pty Ltd for the Reconstruction of Gadd Street, Northcote (CT200915) for an amount of \$277,811.60 (including GST) be accepted.*

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

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.3 TENDER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EMMALINE STREET NORTHCOTE – CT200914**

MINUTE NO. 30

AUTHOR: Major Works Officer – Paul Marino**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** The total cost of the project is estimated at \$233,106.85 (excl GST).**SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the reconstruction of Emmaline Street Northcote, from St Georges Road to Spencer Street. This work involves concrete kerb and channel, drainage works and asphalt overlay works.

This report recommends that the tender of Petrolo Constructions Pty Ltd be accepted.

CONSULTATION:

Ward Councillors (Concept Plan)
Residents of Emmaline Street (Concept Plan)
General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Manager Open Space Planning
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing
Transportation Planning Unit

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) *The tender of Petrolo Constructions Pty Ltd for the Reconstruction of Emmaline Street, Northcote (CT 200914) for an amount of \$234,417.53 (including GST) be accepted.*

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

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.4 TENDER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MCCRACKEN AVENUE NORTHCOTE – CT200918**

MINUTE NO. 31

AUTHOR: Major Works Officer – Paul Marino**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** The total cost of the project is estimated at \$246,979.00 (excl GST).**SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the reconstruction of McCracken Avenue Northcote, from St Georges Road to Hartington Street. This work involves concrete kerb and bluestone pitcher channel, drainage works and asphalt overlay works.

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

CONSULTATION:

Ward Councillors (Concept Plan)
Residents of McCracken Avenue (Concept Plan)
General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Manager Open Space Planning
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing
Transportation Planning Unit

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) *The tender of Presta Construction Group Pty Ltd for the Reconstruction of Gadd Street, Northcote (CT 200918) for an amount of \$249,676.90 (including GST) be accepted.*

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

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.5 LAND AT REAR OF JOAN AND MOUNTBATTEN COURTS,
RESERVOIR****MINUTE NO. 32****AUTHOR: Acting Manager, Asset Strategy – Anita Craven****MANAGER: General Manager, Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: \$30,000 allocated in the 2009/2010 Capital Works Program for the
acquisition of the land****SUMMARY:**

This report recommends that Council commence procedures under the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986 to acquire, by agreement, a parcel of land at the rear of Joan and Mountbatten Courts, Reservoir. The land comprises a part of, and will extend, Council's linear creek corridor along the Merri Creek, to the south. The acquisition will also ensure that the shared pedestrian and cyclist link from Hamersley Court, which connects to Moomba Park in the City of Moreland, is preserved.

CONSULTATION:

Macquarie Lawyers & Strategists
Registered proprietor of the land and their legal representative
Council Departments
Barker Monahan Surveyors

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence****SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar**

THAT the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.6 PRESTON LIBRARY SURROUNDS IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT - CT200911****MINUTE NO. 33****AUTHOR: Manager, Major Projects - Nick Mazarella****MANAGER: General Manager, Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: The total cost for this contract including a contingency amount is \$340,000 (excluding GST).****SUMMARY:**

The Department of Planning and Community Development (State Government) has provided \$340,000 towards the improvement of the Preston Library surrounds.

The scope of the project involves improving pedestrian access, amenities and landscaping to encourage passive and recreational use by nearby residents and visitors to the Preston Library. The surrounds have been designed to encourage use as an outdoor library space for learning activities, meetings, study and reading. Future wireless internet access could expand the future use of the outdoor facilities during favourable weather.

This report recommends that the tender submission from Excell Gray Bruni Pty Ltd be accepted by Council along with an appropriate contingency sum.

CONSULTATION

Consultation to date regarding this matter has included:

- Darebin Libraries (Project Control Group)
- Department of Planning and Community Development (State Government)
- Local residents
- Open Space Planning

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) Council resolves to accept the revised tender submission from Excel Gray Bruni Pty Ltd.*
- (2) Council resolves to enter into contract with Excel Gray Bruni Pty Ltd for the Preston Library Surrounds improvement (CT200911) for the amount of \$287,384.54 (including GST).*
- (3) Council resolves to allocate a contingency amount of \$28,700 (including GST), being 10% of the contract sum for unforeseen costs.*
- (4) The contract be signed and sealed under the Common Seal of Darebin City Council.”*

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.7 TENDER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CHRISTMAS STREET FAIRFIELD – CT200919**

MINUTE NO. 34

AUTHOR: Major Works Officer – Paul Marino**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** The total cost of the project is estimated at \$189,570.00 (excl GST).**SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the reconstruction of Christmas Street Fairfield, from Rathmines Street to Station Street. This work involves concrete kerb and channel and asphalt overlay works.

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

CONSULTATION:

Ward Councillors (Concept Plan)
Residents of Christmas Street (Concept Plan)
General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Manager Open Space Planning
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing
Transportation Planning Unit

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) *The tender of United Roads Pty Ltd for the Reconstruction of Christmas Street Fairfield(CT 200919) for an amount of \$197,527.00 (including GST) be accepted.*

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

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.8 RIGHT OF WAY (ROAD) DISCONTINUANCE ADJOINING 10 AND 12 KENNEDY STREET AND 10 AND 12 RAYMENT STREET, FAIRFIELD**

MINUTE NO. 35

AUTHOR: Property Officer – Kristie Berry**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Net income from this scheme during 2009/2010 is estimated at \$2,105**SUMMARY:**

This report recommends that Council commence the statutory procedures for the discontinuance and sale of the 2.44m wide right of way (road) adjoining 10 and 12 Kennedy Street and 10 and 12 Rayment Street, Fairfield, and to also consider a departure from its policy guidelines in regard to the sale of part of the land from the road to the owner of 12 Kennedy Street.

CONSULTATION:

Macquarie Lawyers and Strategists
Owners of adjoining properties and their legal representatives
Statutory Authorities and Council Departments

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That Council:

- (1) *Commence the statutory procedures under section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 1989 (“the Act”) to discontinue the road adjoining 10 and 12 Kennedy Street and 10 and 12 Rayment Street, Fairfield, shown hatched on the plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report.*

- (2) *Give public notice under sections 207A and 223 of the Act of the proposed discontinuance in the appropriate newspapers and such notice state that if discontinued, Council proposes to sell the land from the road.*
- (3) *Agree to depart from its policy guidelines and authorise the General Manager Community Assets and Leisure to negotiate and finalise the sale of part of the land from the road, if discontinued, to the owner of 12 Kennedy Street, Fairfield, for the sum of \$10,000 (inc GST)."*

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.9 EXTENSION OF RECYCLABLES COLLECTION SERVICE
CONTRACT - CT0349****MINUTE NO. 36****AUTHOR: General Manager Environment and Amenity –Libby Hynes****MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer – Michael Ulbrick****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Within current budget****SUMMARY:**

In March 2003 Thiess Services Pty Ltd was awarded the Recyclables Collection Services Contract (CT0349) and the Recycling Receivals Contract (CT0350). These contracts commenced in September 2003 for a period of 7 years with an option of extension available of up to two 6 month periods.

The contract for Recycling Receivals has already been extended for a further year and it is now recommended that the Recycling Collection Services Contract (CT0349) be extended for the optional year to September 2011 prior to inviting tenders concurrently for both recycling services in late 2010.

CONSULTATION:

Thiess Services Pty Ltd
Customer Service Unit
Procurement and Contracting Unit
Environmental Services Unit
Environmental Strategy Unit
General Manager City Services
Metropolitan Councils

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That consideration of the matter be deferred to the Council Meeting on 1 February 2010 to enable further information and discussion at a Councillor Briefing Session, the further information to include costing and financial models.”

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.10 EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CLEANING SERVICES FOR COUNCIL FACILITIES – CT0670****MINUTE NO. 37****AUTHOR: Coordinator Procurement and Contracting - David Cecala****MANAGER: General Manager Corporate Services - Bruce Dobson****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Annual cost of \$659,126 (excluding GST). This is within budget and represents a 1.6% increase in the first year of the extension****SUMMARY:**

In December 2006 Council awarded the contract for the provision of cleaning services for its 38 Council operated facilities to a panel of five (5) cleaning contractors. The initial contract term was for three year with the option to extend the contract for a further one year plus one year at Councils discretion.

This report recommends that the contract for the provision of cleaning services be extended for a further one (1) year ending in December 2010.

CONSULTATION:

- Manager Darebin Libraries
- Manager Bundoora Homestead
- Manager Reservoir Leisure Centre
- Manager Northcote Town Hall
- Manager Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre
- Manager Bundoora Park
- Manager Facilities Maintenance
- Manager Customer and Civic Services

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) *Council resolves to extend the umbrella contract incorporating individual agreements to five cleaning contractors for a further one year ending December 2010 to:-*
 - *Centrepoint Cleaning Services*
 - *Ikon Cleaning Services*
 - *Laurel Cleaning Services*
 - *MDC Cleaning Services*
 - *ISS Cleaning Services*
- (2) *The General Manager Corporate Services be authorised to finalise the contract documentation.”*

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.11 PROVISION OF TRANSACTIONAL BANKING SERVICES - CT0565****MINUTE NO. 38****AUTHOR: Chief Financial Officer – Kerrie Jordan****MANAGER: General Manager Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: As detailed in the Confidential Report****SUMMARY:**

In 2005, Council conducted a tender for the provision of banking services. Westpac was successful in securing a three year contract with an option to extend for two years. The contract has currently been extended to 30 June 2010 and there is no option to extend the contract beyond this time.

Council now has the option of participating in the banking services contract that exists between Westpac and the Victorian State Government and which expires on 30 September 2011. As part of the broader work taking place around procurement processes, the Minister for Local Government has made this Whole of Government contract available to local government.

CONSULTATION:

Procurement & Contracting Unit
Banking service providers

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas****SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis****THAT** the following Council Resolution:*“That:*

- (1) *Council resolve to participate in the Whole of Government Provision of Transactional Banking and Payment Services Contract with Westpac Banking Corporation until September 2011.*

- (2) *The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to finalise and execute the contract documentation.*
- (1) *A further report be presented to Council prior to retendering the service in 2011.”*

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**11.12 REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE
REVIEW COMMITTEE****MINUTE NO. 39****AUTHOR: Manager Customer and Civic Services – Ray McQuillen****MANAGER: General Manager Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Outlined in the report****SUMMARY:**

The Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee is an Advisory Committee of the Council.

Meetings of the Committee were held on 23 November and 9 December 2009.

This report presents the Committee's report of those meetings and presents recommendations for consideration by the Council.

CONSULTATION:

Chief Executive Officer performance Review Committee
Manager Organisation Development

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

CARRIED

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Council meeting closed at 9.20pm.