



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

MONDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2009

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 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 SEPTEMBER 2009**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.02 P.M.

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr. Stanley Chiang
Cr. Vince Fontana
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Nick Katsis
Cr. Tim Laurence
Cr. Ben Morgan
Cr. Trent McCarthy
Cr. Steven Tsitas

Council Officers

Michael Ulbrick – Chief Executive Officer
Bruce Dobson – General Manager Corporate Services
Jeff Saker – General Manager City Services
Libby Hynes – General Manager Environment and Amenity
Jan Black – General Manager Communities and Culture
Geoff Glynn – General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Michael Ballock – Acting General Manager City Development
Ray McQuillen – Manager Customer and Civic Services
Katia Croce – Council Business Officer

Appointment of Chairperson

The Chief Executive Officer, Michael Ulbrick, advised that the Mayor, Cr. Asmar, was an apology for the meeting and he invited nominations for appointment as Chairperson for the meeting.

Cr. Fontana was nominated by Cr. Greco, seconded by Cr. Chiang and there being no further nominations, was appointed Chairperson for the meeting.

Cr. Fontana assumed the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES

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

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in Public Question Time (second question) and Report No. 8.4 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Release for Community Consultation) see Pages 5 and 18.

Cr Katsis disclosed a conflict of interest in Public Question Time (second question) and Report No. 8.4 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Release for Community Consultation) see Pages 5 and 18.

Cr Tsitas disclosed a conflict of interest in Public Question Time (second question) and Report No. 8.4 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Release for Community Consultation) see Pages 5 and 18.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

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

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 328

5.1 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

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

- High Vibes festival
- Meetings with constituents.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Climate Change Workshop – Victoria’s Climate Change Green paper
- Launch of Lancaster Gate Community Centre meeting

Cr Laurence was pleased to note that funding for the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal project had been reinstated by the Minister for Housing.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSIS

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

- Community Grants meeting (postponed).
- Greek Elderly Citizen Club function.
- Meetings with constituents.

5.4 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG

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

- Bundoora Homestead Board of Management meeting.
- Chinese Art Exhibition – Chinatown
- Meeting of Lancaster Gate Community Centre Reference Group.
- Art Exhibitions at Bundoora Homestead.
- Launch of Lancaster Gate Community Centre.
- Chinese Migrant Award at Radio 3CN.

5.5 REPORT OF CR. TRENT McCARTHY

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

- Meeting of Tram Route 86 Steering Group.
- Briefing on the Tram Route 86 project.
- Community Grants Committee (postponed).
- Presentation to students at Holy Spirit Primary School.
- Meeting of Alphington Paper Mill/Amcor Action Groups.
- Darebin Music Feast - Koorie Songs and stories event.
- Darebin Music Feast - Songwriters Award final.

The General Manager Communities and Culture, Jan Black, announced winners of the Songwriters' Awards.

- Consultation with residents regarding Amendments C82, C91 and C64.
- Australian Greens State conference
- Update from Melbourne Water on works at Darebin Creek.
- Rotary Youth Leaders event.
- Meetings with residents and traders.

5.6 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Meeting of Darebin Health and Wellbeing Committee.
- Reservoir Structure Plan – Project Steering Committee meeting.
- Reservoir Renaissance function (promoting local artists in Reservoir).
- Launch of Lancaster Gate Community Centre.
- Meeting of Lancaster Gate Community Reference Group.
- Reservoir Lions Club dinner.
- Darebin Feast – High Vibes festival.

5.7 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN

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

- Darebin City Brass Awards presentation.
- Briefing for the Tram Route 86 project.
- Meetings with constituents.

5.8 REPORT OF CR. VINCE FONTANA

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

- Lakeside Secondary College Anniversary celebrations.
- Darebin City Brass Awards presentation.
- High Vibes festival.
- Northern sewerage project community open day.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

MINUTE NO. 329

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

<p>Council at its meeting on 5 October 2009 made this amendment to the Minutes of 21 September 2009 – see Minute No. 351</p>
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The following questions were submitted:

- John Nugent of Epping asked if the Keon Parks Stars Junior Football Club could be supplied with a cage to secure refuse bins. The Chairperson, Cr Fontana indicated that a written response would be provided.
- Liliana Rizzo of Preston asked a number of questions about the Tram 86 Corridor.

Cr Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in this matter classifying the type of interest as a direct interest and describing the nature of the interest as that he owns and operates a medical clinic in the area affected by the project. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.30pm.

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 – 7.30pm.

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 – 7.30pm.

The questions were responded to by the Chairperson, Cr. Fontana and the General Manager Community Assets and Leisure Geoff Glynn.

Councillors Chiang, Tsitas and Katsis returned to the meeting – 7.38pm.

- Anthony Surace of West Preston asked a question about a kerb crossover at Cooper Street West Preston. The question was responded to by the Chairperson, Cr. Fontana who indicated that a reply would be provided in writing.

After Public Question Time had concluded, one further question was submitted in writing.

7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**7.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE****MINUTE NO. 330**

The Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee is an Advisory Committee appointed to assist Council with the annual review of performance of the Chief Executive Officer required under section 97A of the Local Government Act 1989.

A meeting of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee was held on 17 August 2009. A summary report of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A** to this report. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated to Councillors.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the Report of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting held on 17 August 2009 be received and the Committee recommendations be adopted.

CARRIED

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

8.1 FIXING OF DATE FOR STATUTORY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

MINUTE NO. 331

AUTHOR: Manager Customer and Civic Services – Ray McQuillen

MANAGER: General Manager Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson

**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil

SUMMARY:

This report proposes that the special (statutory) meeting of the Council to elect the Mayor for the 2009/2010 Council (Mayoral) year be held at 7.30pm on Monday 7 December 2009.

CONSULTATION:

Mayor
Chief Executive Officer

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT the special (statutory) meeting of the Council be held at 7.30pm on Monday 7 December 2009 at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

A special meeting of the Council (historically known as the statutory meeting) is held in December each year. The primary purpose of the statutory meeting is to elect the Mayor for the following 12 months. Darebin Council normally also appoints its Standing Committees and Community Advisory Committees at the meeting and adopts a schedule of meetings of the Council for the year.

The statutory meeting is also a civic function to which Parliamentarians and members of the Darebin community are invited. To facilitate the event the statutory meeting is normally held at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.

CORE ISSUES

At the special (statutory) meeting of the Council on 10 December 2008, the Council adopted a schedule of Council meetings for the 2008/2009 Council (Mayoral) year.

The date for the next statutory meeting of the Council was inadvertently omitted from the schedule submitted to Council for consideration.

The date for the meeting needs to be fixed in advance so that arrangements can be made for the meeting and the associated civic function. The Council is required to give public notice of ordinary and special meetings of the Council and of meetings of special committees comprised solely of Councillors.

The statutory meeting of a Council must be held after the last Saturday in November (local government election day) but not later than 31 December each year. The Darebin City Council statutory meeting is normally held on the first Monday in December enabling one ordinary meeting of the Council and other Committee meetings and briefing sessions to be scheduled before the Christmas/New Year break.

It is proposed that the 2009 statutory meeting of the Council be held at 7.30pm on Monday 7 December 2009.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

Nil

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil

Other

The statutory meeting of the Council is an important event on the Council calendar and is attended by a number of members of the Darebin community. The statutory meeting contributes towards Council's 'leadership and engagement' goal and its 'celebration and participation' goal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs for the meeting and associated function are provided for in the 2009/2010 Budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Make arrangements for the statutory meeting of the Council.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Local Government Act 1989

Minutes of Council meeting on 10 December 2008

8.2 FINANCIAL REPORT – 2 MONTHS ENDED 31 AUGUST 2009**MINUTE NO. 332****AUTHOR: Financial Accountant - Michael O’Riordan****MANAGER: Chief Financial Officer – Kerrie Jordan****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Year to date operating surplus of \$62.8 million and capital works expenditure of \$1.4 million.****SUMMARY:**

A comprehensive financial review has been undertaken for the two months ended 31 August 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 \$62.8 million and capital works expenditure of \$1.4 million. All material variations have been explained in the report.

CONSULTATION:

Managers and Coordinators.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. G. Greco
SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan

THAT the contents of the “Financial Report for the two months ended 31 August 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 two months ended 31 August 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 two months ended 31 August 2009 is an operating surplus before capital revenue and other items of \$62.8 million, which is \$1.5 million ahead of budget. The main items contributing to this favorable variance are user fees, statutory fees and fines, contributions income, other revenue, employee benefits, materials and services, depreciation and other expenses. These have been partially off set by unfavorable variances in rates and operating grants. All material variances reported are of a timing nature. After capital and other items, the operating surplus is \$62.8 million, which is \$1.4 million ahead of budget.

Capital Performance

The Capital Performance for the two months ended 31 August 2009 shows that a total of \$1.4 million has been expended on the capital works program, which is \$0.6 million behind the budget. The variance is due mainly to timing differences on roads projects and the purchase of plant and equipment.

Financial Position

The Financial Position as at 31 August 2009 shows a cash balance of \$20.8 million which is \$1.3 million ahead of budget. The variance is due mainly to the timing difference in the payment for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment and the higher opening cash position compared with budget of \$2.6 million. The net current asset position is \$78.6 million which is \$4.9 million more than budget. The variance is due mainly to the higher cash and cash equivalents, trade receivables, provisions and lower trade payables positions compared with budget. The net asset position is \$973.3 million, which is \$115.2 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 two months ended 31 August 2009 shows that Council's YTD operating result is a surplus of \$62.8 million and \$1.4 million has been expended on capital works.

FUTURE ACTIONS

A further financial report will be presented to Council for the 3 months ending 30 September 2009.

8.3 REGIONAL FOOD KITCHEN UPDATE**MINUTE NO. 333****AUTHOR: General Manager Communities and Culture – Jan Black****MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer - Michael Ulbrick****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Nil****SUMMARY:**

This report provides an update on the Regional Kitchen Project and discusses the process through which the Regional Kitchen is seeking suitable candidates for the positions of Ordinary and Independent Directors of the company boards.

CONSULTATION:

General Manager Communities and Culture
Manager Aged and Disability Services

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council receive and note this update report on the Regional Food Kitchen project.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

- (1) Receive and note this update report on the Regional Food Kitchen project.
- (2) Nominate Cr. G. Greco for the position of Ordinary Director of Regional Kitchen Pty. Ltd.
- (3) Authorise Council's shareholder representatives to submit the nominations to Horner Recruitment by 30 September 2009.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

In 2004, a number of Councils joined together to consider the future of the delivered meals service across local government. This was primarily in response to a decline in the number of meals providers (competition and sustainability issues) and increasing costs and food technology requirements.

These discussions led to the development of a new regional model for food services production and provision. Two joint venture companies were incorporated – Regional Kitchen Pty Ltd, which owns the land on which the food production facility will be located and will construct the facility – and RFK Pty Ltd, trading as Community Chef, the meal supply company. These companies are owned by participating local governments and Darebin is a shareholder in both companies.

The joint venture will provide meals to member Councils for their Meals on Wheels and community care programs from a new purpose built facility. The high quality meals will be nutritious, varied, attractive, culturally sensitive and affordable.

Three courses will be provided each day consisting of soup, a choice of six mains and dessert. Extras such as salad, sandwiches and fruit will also be offered. Kosher and Halal meals will be available in addition to specialist meals such as texture modified.

CORE ISSUES

Key milestones achieved

As a consequence of an unprecedented level of collaboration and common purpose by all levels of government, much has been achieved since the project began in 2004:

- Feasibility study, independent risk assessment and business plan developed.
- Review of costings by independent quantity surveyor confirmed construction estimates.
- Interim Board appointed, currently consisting of three CEOs from member councils: Bill Jaboor (Hobsons Bay), John Bennie (Greater Dandenong) and Michael Ulbrick (Darebin) and two independents, Dr. Gerald Naughtin and Andrew Meek.
- Incorporation of RFK Pty Ltd trading as Community Chef - 15 shareholders (production company).
- Section 186 Ministerial exemption from tendering for meal services has been granted to Shareholder Councils
- Section 193 Ministerial approval has been given to Councils to join a company that has the power to borrow.
- Incorporation of Regional Kitchen Pty Ltd – 11 shareholders (land and building company).
- Independent Audit Board and Probity Auditor appointed.
- Funding confirmed:
 - \$9 million Commonwealth Government
 - \$6 million State Government
 - \$2.25 million collectively from 11 Councils

- Lot 10 Drake Boulevard Altona confirmed as the site for the new purpose built facility
- International award winning 3bornes ARCHITECTES design focusing on ESD and OH&S considerations chosen for the Regional Kitchen:
 - One third smaller than a traditional kitchen with the same capacity
 - Significantly less refrigerated air space translating into lower energy costs, a smaller carbon footprint and a vastly improved work environment for staff
 - Has an overhead rail system, high and low risk zones and a first in first out production system that increases OH&S, food safety and reduces bottlenecks and downtime.
 - Cleaning easier and quicker and chemical use is reduced by the use of e-water
- Project design team appointed; led by Project Manager, Gavin Cox from Metromotion.
- Vaughan Constructions Pty Ltd awarded tender to construct the facility. Lump sum contract within budget estimates. Construction commencing August 2009 and the kitchen will be fully operational by the end of 2010.
- Logistics plan adopted.
- Start up transition plan adopted.
- New risk assessment commissioned based on 2009/2010 Business Plan.
- Communication plan commissioned
- IT development framework adopted
- Updated business plans for each company adopted by Shareholders on 10 July 2009 with the estimated cost per meal at a lower rate than Darebin's current meals contract
- Board transition process endorsed by Shareholders.

Startup and transition

Now that construction has commenced the next stage of the project focuses on the implementation of the Start up Transition Plan. Recruitment of new shareholder Councils will continue until December 2009 followed by a period of consolidation until late 2011.

A Production Manager will be appointed in September 2009. The confirmation of a staffing profile, position descriptions, human resources policies and training program will occur by December 2009. An industrial relations plan and workplace agreement will be developed by March 2010 to allow the progressive recruitment and training of staff between June and October 2010. Logistics plans and delivery arrangements will be finalised, organisational policies and procedures developed and meal supply contracts will be in place by June 2010.

Construction of the facility will be completed by June 2010, with the process fitout completed over the following three months. Commissioning and trialling will then be undertaken with the facility on line by November 2010.

Governance

Two risks have been identified by the Regional Kitchen Group Independent Audit Committee in relation to the governance of both Community Chef and Regional Kitchen. They are:

- The loss of continuity during the critical start-up phase if all directors stood down at the same time and completely new boards were appointed at the start of 2010.
- The potential for Regional Kitchen and Community Chef to develop in different directions and become disconnected once two separate boards were appointed. This concern was highlighted

by the potential for Regional Kitchen, as the asset rich land and building company, to be highly profitable whilst Community Chef, as the asset poor production company and lessee of the facility, would require a higher meal price in order to meet costs. If Regional Kitchen's new board adopted a predominantly commercial approach, this would not translate into a lower meal price.

Based on these concerns Dench McClean Carlson, (DMcC), who had been instrumental in setting up the original structure, were asked to review the organisational structure and consider whether it would be better to amalgamate the two companies. If not, they were asked to advise on how to address the risk of the two companies having different trajectories and conflicting purposes. DMcC recommended keeping the two company structure (largely as an asset protection measure), but having a non-commercial lease between the companies, a common purpose agreement adopted by shareholders of both companies, and overlapping board members.

In order to address both risk factors and act on the DMcC report the following measures were adopted unanimously by shareholders at the 10 July General Meeting:

- A Charter containing a statement of common purpose written into both Business Plans as a guide to incoming boards.
- The rent charged by Regional Kitchen to Community Chef reduced to less than a commercial rate.
- The start-up loan from Regional Kitchen to Community Chef changed to interest only for the first three years at less than a market rate and the repayment period extended from 10 years to 15 years.
- The effect of these measures is that Regional Kitchen will be less profitable and have reduced retained earnings by 2020 and the economic benefit transferred to Community Chef will flow into a lower meal price.
- The dividend paid to Regional Kitchen shareholders on their investment has been delayed until 2013/2014 and reduced from 8% to 5% pa.
- All existing members of the Community Chef board retained until 30 June 2011 and one new Independent Director added by January 2010.
- Two new Ordinary Directors appointed to the Regional Kitchen board to fill vacancies created when Michael Ulbrick and John Bennie stand down on 31 December 2009.
- Bill Jaboor to remain the chair of both boards to ensure a smooth transition and common purpose and Dr Gerald Naughtin and Andrew Meek will remain as Independent Directors on both boards.
- Each shareholder will be invited to nominate suitably qualified people for the three vacancies. The selection of the new Directors will be undertaken by an independent HR consultant, Horner Recruitment in accordance with the process outlined in the Shareholders Agreement.

A new risk assessment has been commissioned and was completed in August, in time for the boards and the Audit Committee to consider it and report to the Annual General Meeting in November 2009.

Nomination of suitably qualified persons for vacant positions

Council is able to nominate one person for the position of Ordinary Director of Regional Kitchen (land and buildings company) and one person for the position of Independent Director of Community Chef (production company). Any nomination must be provided to Horner Recruitment, the independent HR consultant, by 30 September 2009.

Regional Kitchen Ordinary Director

A position description containing the responsibilities and selection criteria for the Ordinary Director position is attached as **Appendix A**. In addition, to be eligible for nomination the nominee must be:

- A current serving Councillor of a Shareholder;
- A current employee of a Shareholder; or
- A person who is in a current contractual relationship with the Shareholder.

In making its selection, Horner Recruitment will consider whether the nominee is eligible, well qualified in terms of the position description and adds to the range of skills on the board.

Nominations are to be sent inclusive of a resume addressing the qualifications, skills and experience contained in the position description.

Community Chef Independent Director

A position description containing the responsibilities and selection criteria for the Independent Director position is attached as **Appendix B**. The Shareholder Agreement states that an independent member must have “appropriate commercial skills for the position of Director”.

In making its selection, Horner Recruitment will consider whether the nominee is eligible, well qualified in terms of the position description and adds to the range of skills on the board.

Nominations are to be sent inclusive of a resume addressing the qualifications, skills and experience contained in the position description.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The new meals facility is a state of the art design that seeks to minimise the impact of the construction of the facility and subsequent production of meals on the environment.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The delivered meals service is a key component of the Home and Community Care (HACC) support system that provides services with the objective of maintaining older people and people with a disability in their own home. Over the past twenty years the service has evolved to now include specialist dietary meals, many varieties of culturally appropriate menus, home delivery arrangements to respond to individual needs and group meal arrangements in a range of settings to improve social support outcomes for clients.

Other

Council’s involvement in the Regional Kitchen Project is consistent with the goal of Community Wellbeing set out in the Council Plan 2009-2013, and in particular the strategy of continuing ‘to provide a broad range of community services targeted to those most in need’.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this status report. In due course it is expected that Council will benefit from relatively lower meal costs from the scale of operation that Community Chef is able to provide.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Continued involvement in the Regional Kitchen Project through Darebin's involvement as a shareholder in both joint venture companies.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Report – Local Government Food Services Project - 16 April 2007

Council Report – Local Government Food Services Project - 6 August 2007

Council Report – Local Government Food Services Project and Execution of Legal Documents - 1 October 2007

Council Report – Local Government Food Services Project Shareholder Representatives and Capital Contributions – 4 February 2008

Council report – Local Government Food Services Project Formal establishment of Regional Kitchen Pty Ltd – 17 March 2008

Council Report – Regional Kitchen Pty Ltd Shareholders representative – 21 July 2008

Cr. Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in this matter classifying the type of interest as a direct interest and describing the nature of the interest as that he operates a medical clinic in the area affected by the project. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.46pm.

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 – 7.46pm.

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 – 7.46pm.

8.4 TRAM ROUTE 86 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – RELEASE FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

MINUTE NO. 334

AUTHOR: Transport Strategy Coordinator - Kate Downward

MANAGER: General Manager, Community Assets & Leisure - Geoff Glynn

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: This is a \$50 million project. Council's contribution, if the project is successful, would amount to approximately \$2-\$3 million for capital improvements over 5 years, directed at streetscape improvements.

SUMMARY:

The Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project aims to provide a faster, more reliable and accessible tram service to the Darebin community. This is 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 is 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 replacement of the tram tracks by the tram operator provides an unprecedented opportunity to re-align the tracks to accommodate the DDA tram stop types.
- Significant State Government investment in Darebin, if the project was successful, would be required to implement this project.

- It provides an opportunity to enhance the streetscape of some of Darebin's centres of activity.
- The project provides an opportunity for Council to fulfil a number action items in large strategic plans such as the Council Plan 2009-2013, Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027 and the Northcote Structure Plan.

Following the March/April consultation phase of this project, Council committed to re-working the proposal through the involvement of residents and businesses in four Community Reference Groups. There was a significant effort made by members of the four Groups to work with Officers and develop solutions to issues raised previously.

The package of measures presented in this Report, to be released for community consultation in the coming weeks, has been recommended primarily by the Groups. There are some changes to the Group's recommendations as requested by the State Government to improve tram priority in the peak periods – namely Keeping Melbourne Moving clearway times that will be tested with the community during consultation between Monday 12 October and Monday 4 December.

CONSULTATION:

The Community Consultation planned is discussed in more detail within this report.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT:

- (1) Council officers conduct an eight week community consultation process as outlined in this report to gather feedback from the community on the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project.
- (2) Council officers report to Council at the conclusion of the consultation process regarding the outcomes.
- (3) The Mayor write a letter to each active member of the four Community Reference Groups to thank them for their efforts and commitment and in providing guidance to the Council on this important project through their Recommendation Reports.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project developed out of the Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027. Council has driven the project, with Officers working closely with Victorian Government stakeholders such as VicRoads, Department of Transport and Department of Planning and Community Development as well as Yarra Trams.

The aim of the project is to provide a faster, safer, more reliable and accessible tram service along Plenty Road and High Street while providing for pedestrians in the busy Activity Centre of Northcote.

The proposal for the 6.8km corridor was presented to the community in March/April to ascertain their level of support. There were a number of issues raised by the community at that point and Council committed to re-working the proposal through the involvement of residents and businesses in four Community Reference Groups (CRG).

The four CRGs met four times over July and August and each developed a Recommendation Report to provide Council with guidance on their preferences for the project. See **Appendix A** for a copy of each of the Recommendation Reports from the four groups. This process has enabled Council Officers to work with the groups closely to develop an understanding of the project within the group and importantly work with the group members to develop solutions to issues that arose during the first round of community consultation. This was a unique process within Council and one that both group members and Council Officers found to be useful.

Parallel to the CRGs, Officers worked with the State Government stakeholder agencies and Yarra Trams to determine their preferred re-worked proposal.

Why is this project important?

This as an important project because:

- Access to public transport is required by Federal Law (Disability Discrimination Act – DDA) with 90% of infrastructure to be compliant by 2017. By involving the community in the type and location of DDA compliant platform tram stops, a positive outcome will be more likely than standard platforms that may be put in place into the future.
- Why is access to public transport so important?
 - 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.
 - Some members of the community have never been able to utilise the tram service as they are denied access to the vehicles. Some member of the community struggle to use the trams as they have pushers or shopping trolleys. DDA stops will provide this access for the first time.
- Tram priority works will provide passengers with a 25% tram travel time saving along the route. This is six minutes in a journey of approximately 23 minutes.
- The provision of accessible platform tram stops provide safety improvements for tram passengers. The conflict with cars as tram passengers step out onto the road to access the tram will be removed.
- The other safety aspects of the project stem from the slowing of traffic along High Street through the implementation of a 40km/h zone. The pedestrian medians proposed in Westgarth and Thornbury also allow for pedestrians to refuge safely in the centre of the road while crossing four lanes.
- The replacement of the tram tracks by the tram operator provides an unprecedented opportunity to re-align the tracks to accommodate the DDA tram stop types that the community have recommended.

- Significant State Government funding, if the project was successful, would be required to implement this project – this investment in the Darebin community would not be possible through Council alone and provides considerable value for money for ratepayers.
- It provides an opportunity to enhance the streetscape of some of our centres of activity, particularly Northcote through the Northcote Streetscape Masterplan and the provision of central medians through Westgarth and Thornbury significantly adding to the pedestrian permeability, safety for pedestrians crossing the road and the amenity of the centre.
- The project provides an opportunity for Council to fulfil a number action items in some large strategic plans such as the Council Plan 2009-2013, Darebin Transport Strategy 2007-2027 and the Northcote Structure Plan. In addition the project is fulfilling other actions within State Government policies: Victorian Transport Plan, Melbourne 2030 / Melbourne @ 5 Million, Think Tram priorities, Keeping Melbourne Moving, Network Operating Plans, Arrive Alive!

CORE ISSUES

The New Proposal

The new proposal, a hybrid between the CRG recommendations and the State Government recommendations, for the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project can be summarised at a high level through the following key points and is illustrated in maps in Appendix B:

- Promotion of preferred traffic routes (St Georges Road/Spring Street and Albert Street/Grange Road) for through traffic. This will be achieved through metering of traffic at the High Street/Westgarth Street intersection in the south and the Plenty Road/Albert Street intersection in the north.
- Installation of Disability Discrimination Act compliant tram stops along the 6.8 kilometre route with central island platform stops predominantly being recommended.
- 40km/h zone along High Street between Westgarth Street and Dundas Street.
- A pedestrian facility at Separation/Arthurton/High Street intersection which will allow pedestrians to cross diagonally over the intersection instead of staging their crossing across each leg of the intersection and the removal of the slip-lane at this intersection.
- The provision of central medians through Westgarth and Thornbury to facilitate informal pedestrian crossing and streetscape enhancements.
- The extension of clearways along the length of the route in a staged manner to Keeping Melbourne Moving (KMM) times; morning peak direction 6.30-10am and afternoon peak direction 4-7pm except around intersections where the afternoon peak times are 3-7pm:
 - Westgarth (Westgarth Street to James Street) – Stage 1
 - Plenty Road (Dundas Street to Albert Street) – Stage 1
 - Thornbury (Separation Street to Dundas Street) – Stage 2
- The introduction of intersection Keeping Melbourne Moving times (3-7pm) in Stage 1 on the approach to Dundas Street in Stage 1 is the only exception to the above statement.
- The removal of clearways in the Northcote area between the kerb outstand tram stops.
- Installation of part time tram lanes when each of the above clearways are implemented.
- Removal of 10 tram stops.
- Provision for cyclists along the top of kerb outstand platforms. Other bicycle infrastructure such as storage boxes at traffic lights to be investigated during detail design.

- Council to request further investigation by the relevant authority of the possibility of pedestrian operated signals across Westgarth Street near McLaughlin or Rucker Streets to facilitate cyclist and local traffic across the road.
- A vision for the Plenty Road corridor aligned with the State Government's recent investigations for tram routes as priority public transport corridors.
- Implementation of counter peak clearways on Plenty Road as an open discussion with the community during consultation.

Notes:

- A detailed design process would be required to resolve some local issues around various aspects of the project.
- Staging of the project, based on the replacement of tram tracks by the tram operators, to be confirmed once the new operator is in place in 2010.
- The cost of this project is estimated at \$50-\$60 Million. If Council agrees, at the conclusion of the community consultation process, that the project is of benefit to the Darebin community, then State Government funding for the project would need to be pursued. Council contribution to the project would be in the order of \$2-3Million for streetscape improvements over the time of the project.
- The Central Island Platform Tram Stops as proposed do not currently have guidelines for their application and safety. The State Government is pursuing, through Public Transport Safety Victoria, further advice regarding this issue and hope to have clarification prior to our public consultation process.

Staging:

It is proposed, based on current timelines for tram track replacement by the tram operator, that the staging of the project would be as follows:

Stage 1, 2010/2011:

- DDA compliant tram stops in Westgarth and Northcote and all associated works (tram stop removal, streetscaping, gateway traffic treatments, traffic signal alterations).
- Part time tram lane works in Plenty Road.

Stage 2, 2011/2012:

- DDA compliant tram stops in High Street Thornbury and part time tram lane works.

Stage 3, 2014/2015

- DDA compliant tram stops in Plenty Road.

Community Consultation

An eight week consultation process has been planned (Monday 12 October to Monday 4 December) . Consultation cannot begin earlier due to school holidays and the preparation of materials for consultation. The Consultation Plan is summarised below:

Gaining feedback:

- A survey form will be developed to gain feedback from interested people. This will be widely available in hardcopy and on the internet.
- SMS messaging of feedback will be trialled for the first time.
- Written submissions will be accepted via email and post.
- A random sample of Darebin ratepayers will be contacted by phone to provide their views on the project.

General outreach:

- Webpage fully up to date with all materials and information.
- Mailout to all premises within 1 kilometre of the effected tram route (27,000 premises) with a letter from the Mayor, brochure explaining the project, invitation to a drop-in information session and translated information for the two drop-in information sessions that will have six interpreters present. Week two of the campaign.
- Mailout to absentee owners along High Street and Plenty Road.
- Posters in trams with brochures to encourage feedback from tram users.
- Entertainers in activity centres, at tram stops, in shopping centres to raise awareness of consultation and distribute information.
- Four drop-in information sessions (two in Northcote and two in Preston) for interested people to ask questions and find out more.
- The Route 86 mailing list compiled over the past 6 months will be utilised to inform interested people of the consultation opportunities.
- Displays in Customer Service Centres and libraries.

Culturally and linguistically diverse community:

- Two drop-in information sessions with translators from the six main languages present.
- Distribution of language brochure advertising translated information sessions to CALD community groups through MRC, DECC and older adult group network.
- Workshop with emerging community leaders to ascertain feedback.
- Workshop with established community leaders to ascertain feedback.
- International students contacted through La Trobe and NMIT networks.

Media/advertisements:

- Article in September Darebin News and Sustainability News
- Media Releases including to ethnic press
- Half page advertisements in the Preston Leader and Northcote Leader in week two of the campaign.

Presentations and meetings:

- Darebin's representative bodies where meeting schedules allow: Darebin Environmental Reference Group; Darebin Disability Advisory Committee; Darebin Overseas Student Advisory Committee; Darebin Ethnic Communities Council.

- Key attractors along the route: La Trobe University, schools, kindergartens, neighbourhood houses and other stakeholders.
- Roberts Street housing residents (who are currently living elsewhere)

Business Groups and traders:

- Presentation to Northcote Traders Association.
- Offer to Westgarth business owners/tenants to attend a drop-in session based in Westgarth.
- Offer to Thornbury business owners/tenants to attend a drop-in session or workshop in Thornbury.
- Offer to Plenty Road business owners/tenants to attend a drop-in session or workshop in Preston.

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 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 keys 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.

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 is valuable for their social inclusion and participation in the wider community.

Other

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 eye to improving public transport along a designated public transport corridor and improving the pedestrian environment within our busy Activity Centres.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development costs of the project to-date have been shared between Council, the Department of Transport and VicRoads.

If the project is approved by Council and successful in gaining State Government funding the costs will be approximately \$50 million and be spread over five years. Council's contribution to the project will be confirmed in detailed design stage but is estimated at \$2-\$3 million.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Further stakeholder engagement and management will be required over the coming months.

Council will be kept informed during the community consultation period of the progress and outcomes as the consultation progresses. A briefing to Councillors will be scheduled at the conclusion of the community consultation period followed by a report to Council.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Transport Strategy, 2007-2027

Council Report, 1 June 2009, "Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Consultation Report and future directions"

Council Report, 6 July 2009, "Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups"

Recommendation Reports from the four Community Reference Groups – see **Appendix A**

Crs Chiang, Katsis and Tsitas returned to the meeting – 7.53pm

**8.5 AMENDMENT C64 TO THE DAREBIN PLANNING SCHEME:
JOSHUA PITT TANNERY SITE – CONSIDERATION OF THE
PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT C64**

MINUTE NO. 335

AUTHOR: Strategic Planner – Long Nguyen

MANAGER: Acting General Manager City Development – Michael Ballock

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Within Budget

SUMMARY:

Amendment C64 to the Darebin Planning Scheme proposes to rezone land located at 52 – 60 and 71 – 79 Gadd Street (*Joshua Pitt Tannery site*) from the current Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z) to Residential 1 Zone (R1Z) and proposes to introduce the following overlay controls:

- Environmental Audit Overlay.
- Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 10 “Joshua Pitt Tannery site”.
- Heritage Overlay – Schedule 177 to the 1907, 1925 Drying houses and remnant chimney.

Amendment C64 to the Darebin Planning Scheme was on public exhibition from 14 February to 24 March 2006. A total of thirteen (13) submissions were received during the public exhibition process. At the Council meeting held on 2 March 2009, Council resolved to:

- Consider all submissions received to Amendment C64; and
- Request the Minister of Planning to appoint an independent panel in accordance with Section 23 (1) (b) of the Planning and Environment Act (1987)(the Act) to consider submissions to Amendment C64 to the Darebin Planning Scheme.

An independent 2 person panel was appointed by the Minister of Planning to consider and hear submissions between 18 and 22 of May 2009.

The Panel report on Amendment C64 was received by Council on 10 July 2009. The report was generally in support of the Amendment with critical areas revolving around the recommendations for changes to be made in regards to the application of the Heritage Overlay Schedule (177) and the Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 10.

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the Panel’s recommendation for the adoption of the C64 Amendment to the Darebin Planning Scheme.

This report was considered at the Council meeting on 7 September 2009 and deferred to enable further information and discussion. The report has been updated.

CONSULTATION:

Amendment C64 to the Darebin Planning Scheme was on exhibition from 14 February to the 24 March 2006 pursuant to Section 19 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

The Notice of Preparation of an Amendment was given in the following manner:

- Victorian Government Gazette of 16 February 2006.
- Notice via post to approximately 230 property owners and tenants of properties within the surrounding area.
- Notice via post to all authorities and Ministers prescribed in the Act.
- Notices in the Preston Leader and the Northcote Leader newspapers published on 14 and 15 February 2006, respectively.
- Amendment documents were available at the Preston Customer Service Centre, the Preston Library and, electronically via the websites of Darebin City Council and the Department of Planning and Community Development.

Nature of Submissions to the Panel

The main issues arising from the submissions are as follows:

- One resident of Bird Avenue was in support of the Amendment.
- Six residents from Emmaline Street; some supported to the change of use to residential and all had concerns in regards to amenity impacts and quality of design, future developments may have on the area.
- The owner of 47 Gadd Street requested that the property be included in the rezoning. The submission has since been withdrawn.
- Department of Sustainability (DSE), Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and the Environmental Protection Agency had no objections to the amendment, however The (EPA) raised concerns over the:
 - Amenity impacts on existing residential development
 - Design quality
 - Impact of residential development in Gadd Street on the operation of Ensign Services (industrial dry cleaner).
- Pierce Body Works (PBW). The submission was proposed the introduction of a requirement for future residents of Gadd Street (adjacent to PBW) to enter into a section 173 Agreement which serves to protect the existing operation of PBW.
- Ensign services raised concerns over potential conflict from current industrial processes with future residents. The submission was later withdrawn as an agreement was reached between Ensign/Spotless and the proponent. The substance of the agreement was that residents of the future redeveloped land will not move into the western end of Gadd Street until December 2012. This would be applied as a restrictive covenant on the Joshua Pitt land titles.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council resolves to:

- Receive the Panel Report.
- Adopt Amendment C64 with changes outlined in this report, in accordance with Section 29(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
- Write to the Secretary for the Department of Planning and Community Development seeking certification for Amendment C64 to the Darebin Planning Scheme under section 35A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

Fulcrum Town Planners on behalf of the owners, Joshua Pitt made a request to Darebin City Council, seeking the rezoning of land located at 52 – 60 and 71 – 79 Gadd Street (Industrial Precinct) from the current Industrial 3 Zone (IN3Z) to Residential 1 Zone (R1Z), on 29 March 2005. The proposal sought the rezoning of land referred to as “Joshua Pitt Tannery site” to facilitate future residential development and introduce the following Overlay controls:

- Environmental Audit Overlay
- Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 10 “Joshua Pitt Tannery site”
- Heritage Overlay – Schedule 177 to the 1907, 1925 Drying houses and remnant chimney

Amendment C64 to the Darebin Planning Scheme was on public exhibition from 14 February to 24 March 2006. A total of thirteen (13) submissions were received during the public exhibition process. At the Council meeting of 2 March 2009, Council resolved:

- to consider all the submissions received to Amendment C64; and
- to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an independent panel in accordance with Section 23 (1) (b) of the ‘Act’ to consider submissions to Amendment C64 to the Darebin Planning Scheme.

An independent 2 person panel was appointed by the Minister for Planning to consider and hear submissions between the 18 and 22 May 2009.

The next step in the Planning Scheme amendment process is for Council to consider the Panel’s report and to resolve whether or not to adopt Amendment C64 under Section 29 (1) of the ‘Act’. The objective of this report is to outline the key findings and recommendations of the Panel and to advise Council of the next steps it could take to complete the Amendment C64 process.

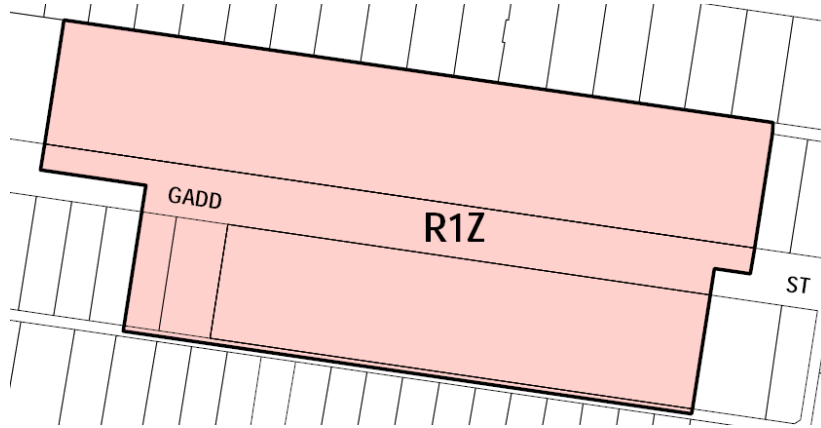


Figure 1: Map showing extent of rezoning (Source: Darebin City Council)

CORE ISSUES

The Panel Report

The Panel Report is generally in support of Amendment C64 as exhibited and the key discussion and recommendations centres on the following issues which are summarized in the table below

Issue	Recommendation
Exclusion of 47, 48, 49 and 50 Gadd Street properties from the Amendment.	As exhibited, the Panel recommends that these properties be excluded from the Amendment.
	Recommended position: Accept Panel recommendations
Application of the Heritage Overlay	The Panel recommended that the Heritage Overlay Schedule (177) should only be applied to 1907, 1925 Drying Houses and the remnant chimney rather than the entire tannery site. The application of the Heritage Overlay should be wholly contained within the affected titled lots. A site survey will be required to confirm the buildings are within the title boundaries.
	Recommended position: Accept Panel recommendations subject to modifications discussed below
Reference to appropriate Heritage Assessment	Panel has recommended the Context (Helms) Heritage assessment prepared by David Helms, be replaced by the following: <i>“Joshua Pitt’s Croxton Tannery: A brief history and assessment of cultural heritage significance (Allan Willingham, 2004)</i>
	Recommended position: Accept Panel recommendations
Application of the	The Panel has advised that the Environmental Audit Overlay and

Issue	Recommendation
Environmental Audit Overlay	<p>associated conditions applied by the environmental audit is suitable considering the context and history of the site.</p> <p>Recommended position: Accept Panel recommendations</p>
Clause 52.10 of the Darebin Planning Scheme, “ <i>Uses with adverse amenity potential</i> ”	<p>The Panel has recommended the exclusion of considerations arising from clause 52.10, as Amendment C64 will not introduce a new sensitive use within the threshold distance that is not already present.</p> <p>Recommended position: Accept Panel recommendations</p>
Application of the Design and Development Overlay	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Panel has recommended that the word “should” replaces the words “must” and “may” as stated in the introductory statement of ‘<u>Buildings and Works and Building Heights</u>’. The word “to” should be replaced by “for” in the second dot point under Building Heights. 2. The concept plan attached as part of the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 10 (DDO10) is amended to allow for a 10 metre high building envelope to the western boundary with no setback to the north and south of Gadd Street. 3. The Gadd Street Building Envelope Plan indicates a continuous line at a 10 metre height from east to west for land south of Gadd Street. 4. The Gadd Street Building Envelope Plan deletes reference to buildings of primary significance for land south of Gadd Street. 5. An additional dot point be added to the DDO, stating that: <p style="margin-left: 40px;"><i>“A permit may be granted to the construction of a building or part of a building that exceeds a height of 14 metres above ground level”.</i></p> <p>Recommended position: Accept Panel recommendations subject to the modifications discussed below</p>
Application of a Section 173 Agreement	<p>The Panel did not support Mr Jones, on behalf of Pierce Body Works (PBW) request to add a decision guideline within the Design and Development Overlay that makes reference to the use of a Section 173 Agreement on the Joshua Pitt titles.</p> <p>Recommended position: Accept Panel recommendations</p>

Discussion

- **Heritage Overlay Schedule (177) – 1907, 1925 Drying houses and remnant chimney**

As two years has lapsed since the amendment was exhibited (14 March 2006), the initial map reference allocated to the subject site (no.177 of the Heritage Overlay) has since been amended to now show no.180 within the Overlay Schedule. The amended reference made to 1907, 1925 Drying houses and remnant chimney is listed below:

Heritage Overlay Schedule (180) – 1907, 1925 Drying houses and remnant chimney

The Panel has made a recommendation that a site survey will be required to ensure that the buildings are wholly contained within a titled lot. As shown within the aerial image (Appendix A), all buildings are located well within the title boundary which consists of five (5) separate land titles and as such, a site survey is not necessary.

- **Design and Development Overlay Schedule 10 – Joshua Pitt Tannery Site.**

The original height restriction formulated during the community consultation meetings between Council and relevant parties concluded that a maximum building height of 10 metres to any future developments would be appropriate. This height restriction would ensure the streetscape would not be dominated by any new built form and that the amenity of existing residents will not be jeopardised. The Panel has recommended the addition of the extra dot point (below) in the DDO 10 that would allow future developments to exceed the 10 metre high building envelope:

“A permit may be granted to the construction of a building or part of a building that exceeds a height of 14 metres above ground level”.

It is considered that this wording and the consequent changes to the exhibited amendment introduced by Panel is ambiguous and does not provide any design guidelines to structures that may exceed the 10 metre high building envelope.

As such, it is proposed that Council introduces that additional design guidelines and permit controls for any buildings exceeding 10 metres (or a fourth storey) be included to provide further clarity to the Panel’s recommendation. Consequently, in the light of the Panel’s recommendations, the modified DDO 10 should include the following additional controls:

- *No building should exceed the maximum building height of 10 metres, as shown on the Gadd Street Building Envelope Plan forming part of this schedule. This does not apply to:*
 - *Any rooftop structure, plant or equipment should be located and designed so as not to be dominant in the view from any adjoining road or residential property to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.*
 - *Any architectural feature, rooftop structure or part of a building exceeding 10 metres is to be located and designed to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.*
 - *Upper level form or roof structures that exceed 10 metres should be discrete and recessive in appearance and distinguishable from the host building.*
 - *Any upper level form above 10m should be constructed of lightweight materials*
 - *Upper level form above 10 metres should be setback from the street edge, be no more than 60% of the building footprint immediately below and be detached.*
 - *A permit may not be granted for the construction of a building or any part of a building that exceeds a height of 14 metres above ground level.*

These controls essentially set out design guidelines and restrictions for to any structures exceeding the 10 metre high building envelope to take on the appearance of a lower built form in respect to the existing neighbourhood character and residential amenity.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Amendment C64 seeks to realise the broader sustainability objectives of Melbourne 2030 and the objectives set out within Councils Municipal Strategic Statement. As the Amendment has provisions to introduce further housing opportunities within an established area within close proximity to the Central Business District, future residents will be located close to existing services and infrastructure, thus reducing the dependency on cars.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Amendment C64 contributes to a fairer city as highlighted in Direction 6 of the Melbourne 2030 Policy by facilitating the provisions for further housing stock to be located within an established area.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Write to the Secretary for the Department of Planning and Community Development seeking certification of the Amendment under Section 35A of the 'Act'.

In the event that the Amendment is certified by the Secretary for the Department of Planning and Community Development, the amendment will be approved by Council's delegate, the Manager of Urban Development.

Once the Amendment is approved, the Amendment documentations will be forwarded to the Department and a Notice of Approval of the Amendment will be published in the Victorian Government Gazette by the Department under section 36 (1) of the Act and Council will undertake to publish the Notice in the local newspaper and advise the submitters of the Amendment.

- Adopts Amendment C64 to the Darebin Planning Scheme;
- Writes to the Secretary for the Department of Planning and Community Development seeking certification of the adopted amendment under Section 35A of the Planning and Environment Act, 1987; and,
- Approves the Amendment under delegation to the Manager of Urban Development upon the adopted amendment being certified by the Secretary for the Department of Planning and Community Development.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Amendment C64 Panel Report dated 10 July 2009
- Joshua Pitt Site Gadd Street, Northcote – Traffic Engineering Report dated 8 May 2009, prepared by Cardno Grogan Richards
- Joshua Pitt’s Croxton Tannery Gadd Street Northcote 3070 – A brief cultural history and assessment of cultural heritage significance submission to Planning Panels Victoria dated May 2009, prepared by Allan Willingham
- Submission to Amendment C64 on behalf of Pierce Body Works dated May 2009, prepared by Urbis
- Urban Design Evidence – Gadd Street, Northcote dated May 2009, prepared by F2 Architects
- Outcomes of Environmental Audit – Gadd Street, Northcote dated 18 May 2009, prepared by Coffey Environments.

Appendices

Appendix A: Aerial imagery showing the extent of buildings located within title boundary.

Appendix B: Map of the proposed Heritage Overlay

**8.6 DRAFT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN
2009-2013****MINUTE NO. 336****AUTHOR: Community Health Officer - Melissah Edwards****MANAGER: Manager Family Youth and Community Support - Dean Griggs
General Manager Communities and Culture - Jan Black****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Nil****SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 and seek endorsement from Council for it to be made available for public inspection.

CONSULTATION:

The draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 has been developed following an extensive consultation process, which consisted of a number of methods designed to engage different parts of Darebin's diverse community. The consultation process received a wide response from the Darebin community with over 200 people providing input into the development of the draft plan. The consultation process is outlined in more detail in the body of this report. Some of the key groups consulted are listed below.

- Darebin Health Steering Committee
- Darebin Local Safety Committee
- Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC)
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC)
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC)
- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- A range of Darebin Health and Community Services
- Darebin residents
- Council staff

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

THAT Council endorse the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 attached as **Appendix A** to this report, for public inspection.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

All local governments in Victoria are required under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (the Act) to prepare a four-year municipal public health and wellbeing plan for their municipal district within twelve months of a general Council election. The Act requires that the plan examine the health and wellbeing needs and determinants in the municipal district and identify a range of goals and strategies to address these issues in partnership with the local community. Council is required under the Act to make a copy of the current municipal public health and wellbeing plan available for inspection by members of the public.

The Community Health and Safety Framework 2005-2009 adopted in 2005 has been the municipal public health and wellbeing plan for the City of Darebin for the past four years. With this plan coming to an end, the new Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 has been developed to articulate Council's ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of the Darebin community, and demonstrate compliance with the legislative requirements.

A report to Council on 3 August 2009 provided an overview of the achievements of the previous Community Health and Safety Framework 2005-2009.

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 which has been prepared for public inspection.

CORE ISSUES

An Overview of the Draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013

The draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 provides a broad, four-year strategic framework for health and wellbeing planning in the City of Darebin. It aims to build upon Council's existing work, and move Darebin forward towards a more holistic and integrated planning approach, encompassing all Council activities that relate to the health and wellbeing of our community.

The Policy Context

The draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 is situated with a broad policy context. Most significant is the Victorian *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. This legislation was recently up-dated, replacing the *Health Act 1958*, and aims to provide a more modern approach to addressing current and future public health concerns at the local level. Local public health and wellbeing planning now needs to consider the vital impact of the environment in which people live, and its influence on health and wellbeing outcomes. As such, local governments are now required to adopt a multifaceted approach, with a stronger focus on prevention and creating environments which are conducive to healthy lifestyles and not merely the treatment of disease and illness.

Such thinking is based on the internationally endorsed Social Model of Health which recognises that the many factors which influence health and wellbeing lie in the complex built, natural, social and economic environments in which people live.

To assist local governments to apply this approach, the Department of Human Services developed the *Environments for Health: A Framework for Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Planning*. This framework has been designed as planning tool to examine the impact of the municipal environment – the built, natural, social and economic domains – on community health and wellbeing. This framework is the recommended public health planning framework for all local government authorities in Victoria, and has been used in the development of draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013.

Developing the New Plan

In order to develop the priorities and direction for the new Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013, an extensive research and consultation process was undertaken which included the following three phases.

- **A review of the broader policy context.**

A review of the broader policy context spanning from the International to the local level was undertaken to ensure the plan is based upon current thinking and best practice in the field of public health planning. In addition, a review local health data was undertaken to identify key health issues in the City of Darebin.

- **Consultation with the community.**

A range of people were consulted including Council staff, Committee groups, local service providers and residents. Over 200 people providing input into the development of the draft plan, with opportunities for input provided in a number of ways including intercept and online surveys, community forums, focus groups and workshops. The aim of the consultations was to identify the key health and wellbeing needs and priorities of the Darebin community.

Specific consultation was also undertaken with a range of community groups to ensure the draft plan effectively captured the health and wellbeing needs of our most diverse communities including the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC), Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC), Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC), Darebin Local Safety Committee and the Darebin Health Steering Committee.

A priority setting process.

To ensure that the selection of priorities for the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan are feasible and within the scope of local government's role and resource capacity, as well as aligned with community, stakeholder and broader government authorities priorities, the following list of questions were used as criteria to inform decision-making and priority setting.

How do the priority areas relate to:-

- Current state and national health priorities?
- The priorities of partner organisations in the Darebin municipality?
- Current funding and planning commitments of Council?
- The data on health and wellbeing status for the Darebin community?
- Council's role and resource capacity in relation to the issue?
- The community's needs and priorities for their health and wellbeing, and the health and wellbeing of their community?

A New Model for Health and Wellbeing Planning in Darebin

Key Priority Areas 2009-2013

Following this extensive research, consultation and priority setting process, the top health and wellbeing issues for the Darebin community were identified and formed into three broad priority areas. These three key priority areas form the basis of the new Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013:

PRIORITY ONE: Promoting mental health and social wellbeing – with strategies addressing social inclusion, prevention of violence in families and against women and children, alcohol and drug use and mental health issues.

PRIORITY TWO: Improving physical health – with strategies addressing physical activity, access to healthy food and nutrition and health promotion.

PRIORITY THREE: Creating safe, supportive and sustainable environments – with strategies addressing access to health and community services, community safety, housing, transport, climate change.

Planning Principles

To ensure a holistic approach to health and wellbeing planning that considers the needs of Darebin's diverse community, the following set of planning principles have been developed to guide implementation of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013.

- **Working within a 'determinants of health' model** – consideration for the strong influence of people's lifestyles and the built, natural, economic and social environments in which they live and work on their health and wellbeing.
- **The importance of integrated planning** – consideration for the importance of integrated and intersectoral planning in order to address the broad range of health and wellbeing determinants.
- **Acknowledging human rights** – consideration for the rights of all people with the Darebin community.
- **Developing interventions which are socially and culturally inclusive** – consideration for health equity and supports for our more vulnerable and disadvantaged populations including people from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, new and emerging migrants and refugees and people with a disability.
- **Developing interventions which are relevant to stages and transitions within the life course** – consideration for transitions that occur with age and the need for interventions that create supportive environments and foster healthy choices at all stages of life from the early years through to the older years.
- **Developing interventions which are gender sensitive** – consideration for the differences for men and women in relation to their health and wellbeing needs and supports.

These planning principles are to be considered as lenses to all planning decisions around the key priority areas identified above to ensure that our actions are based on best practice standards, and also include consideration for the specific needs of our most vulnerable and diverse populations.

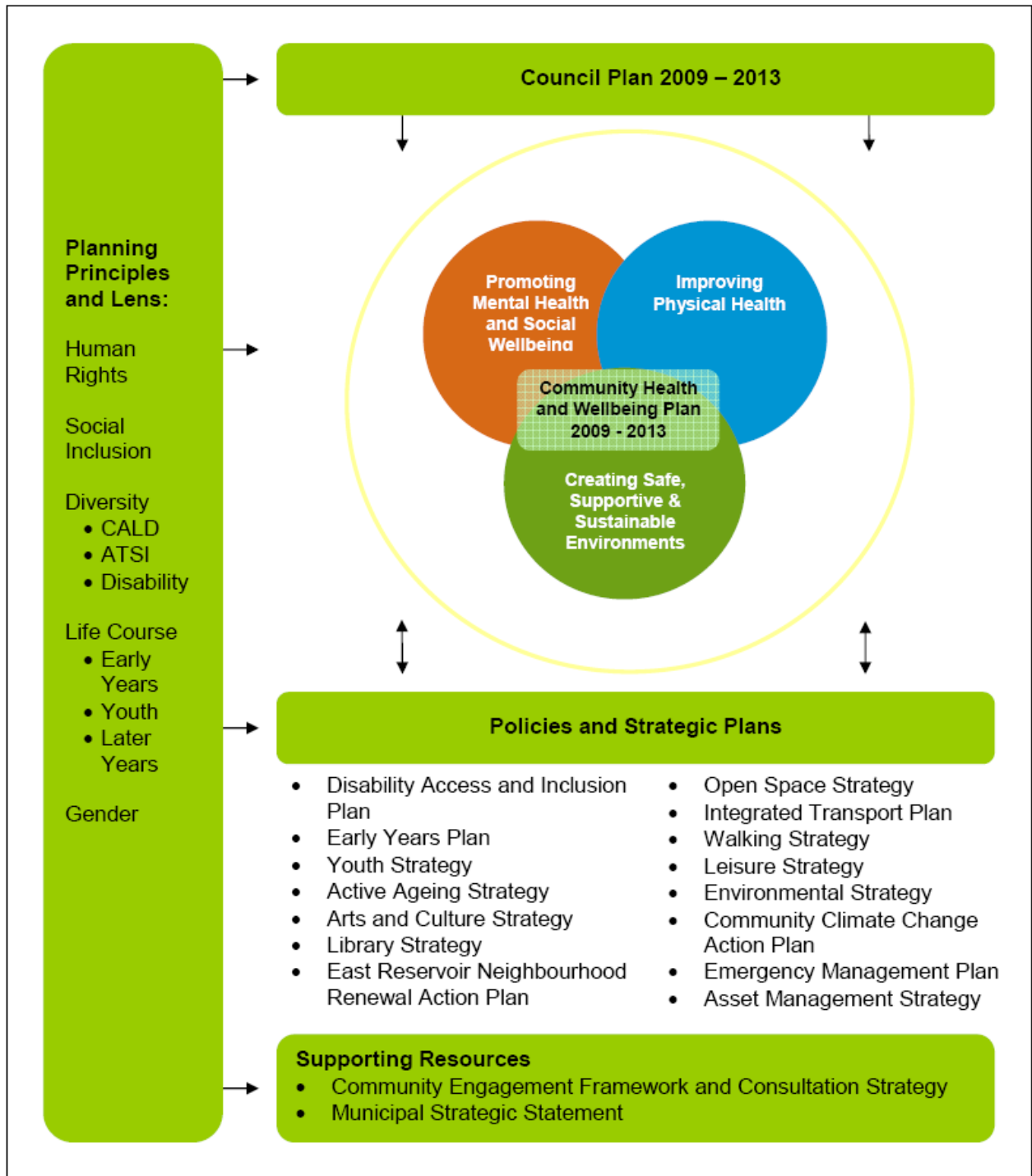
The proposed model for health and wellbeing planning in Darebin is encapsulated in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: A Model for Health and Wellbeing Planning at Darebin

A Broader Strategic Framework for Health and Wellbeing Planning at Darebin

Within the broader context of Council, the framework below outlines the proposed integrated planning approach for Council to address the health and wellbeing of our diverse community, and how the model for health and wellbeing planning identified above will influence work across Council. Specifically, the framework identifies the need for all planning across Council to consider the impacts on community health and wellbeing when shaping the environment that we live in, as well as considering the specific needs of the various demographics groups in our community through the various planning principles and lens.



Implementation and Measuring Progress

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 will be implemented through work outlined in Action Plans which will be developed annually and integrated with the organisation’s internal corporate service planning software. This approach will ensure that the plan becomes integrated across the whole of Council, creating a transparent and formal process for monitoring implementation.

Darebin Health Steering Committee

The Darebin Health Steering Committee will oversee the implementation of Council's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 and continue to be the primary advisory group for health and wellbeing issues in the Darebin community.

The Darebin Health Steering Committee has endorsed the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 for consideration by Council.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS***Environment Sustainability***

Factors in our natural environment such as the provision of open spaces, access to clear air and water and natural vegetation, and protection against climate change are important in maintaining health and wellbeing. The draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 contains a number of strategic directions which are specifically designed to reflect Council's commitment to environmental sustainability, with one of the three key priority areas to 'create a safe, supportive and sustainable environment'. This priority area includes specific strategies to address and respond to the potential impacts of climate change. The draft plan also promotes and encourages sustainable living and healthy behaviours such as active travel, eating fresh foods and using local parks for recreation and leisure pursuits.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The extent to which people feel a part of and connected to their local communities is a key indicator of health, particularly mental health. The draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 contains a number of strategic directions which are specifically designed to address social inclusion and diversity in the Darebin community, with one of the three key priority areas being to 'promote mental health and social wellbeing'. This priority area includes specific strategies to address social inclusion and related issues such as alcohol and drug use, gambling, mental health issues, family violence, housing stress and a lack of transport access and support services. This is particularly relevant for already disadvantaged and at risk groups including people with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse and newly arrived and emerging communities, particularly those with limited English proficiency.

Financial

Actions and strategies identified in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 will be met within existing operational budgets. Additional resources when required will be sourced from relevant organisations such as the Department of Human Services or the Department of Health.

Other

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 will provide a holistic and integrated planning approach which encompasses all of Council's activities that relate to health and wellbeing across the built, natural, social and economic environmental domains. Once adopted, the aim of this plan is to provide an overarching framework and lens for all Council planning and activity to ensure proactive consideration of the health and wellbeing of the Darebin community in all that we do.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Following Council's endorsement, the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 will be made available for inspection by members of the public in accordance with the requirements in the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

The draft plan will be made available from Monday 28 September with the closing date for submissions Friday 16 October 2009. During this time, the draft plan will be made available:

- On the Darebin Council website.
- Advertised in the Mayor's Column of the Leader Newspaper.
- Copies made available at the Darebin Civic Centre and Council's Customer Service Centres.
- Copies made available in all Darebin libraries.
- Letter notifying of the release of the draft plan to all Darebin Council staff.
- Letters notifying of the release of the draft plan will be sent to a wide range of Darebin Committees and advisory groups including the Darebin Health Steering Committee, Darebin Local Safety Committee, Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC), Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC), Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC), Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG), and the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee. It will also be sent to key local health service providers including: Darebin Community Health Centre and the Darebin Community Mental Health Centre.
- Small focus groups to be held with key local services and community groups including staff from Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre, Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, Darebin Community Health Centre and East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal resident groups.
- Copies will be made available in alternate formats on request, and the multilingual telephone line will be listed on all forms of communication.

Following the period of public inspection, feedback will be integrated in the draft plan and the revised Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 will be submitted to Council for adoption on 16 November 2009.

Once adopted by Council, a copy of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 will be submitted to the Secretary of the Department of Human Services by 27 November 2009 in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Community Health and Safety Framework 2005-2009

Community Health and Safety Framework, Annual Report 3 August 2009

**8.7 KINDERGARTEN CENTRALISED WAITING LIST –
INTERIM GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES**

MINUTE NO. 337

AUTHOR: Manager Early Years and Children's Services - Cheryl Hermence**MANAGER:** General Manager Communities and Culture - Jan Black**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

The Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Guidelines and Procedures has been reviewed as part of the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education (UAECE) Project. The project funded by Council of Australian Governments (COAG) focused on identifying barriers for children accessing early childhood education services. As the current procedures were identified as a potential barrier for some Darebin children in accessing kindergarten the procedures have been amended. The Guidelines and Procedures will be of an interim nature to allow for adjustments in light of the significant developments happening across Australia in the field of early childhood. A Communication Strategy is being developed to inform families more fully about allocation processes and the timelines for offers for kindergarten placements.

CONSULTATION:

Community consultation with Darebin families with young children
Committees of Management of kindergarten services

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) Council endorse the *Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Interim Guidelines and Procedures* attached as **Appendix B** to this report.
- (2) A further report be provided to Council in February 2010 in regard to the 15 Hours of Kindergarten Project and the impact on services and the Centralised Waiting List system.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. B. Morgan**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Tsitas**THAT:**

- (1) Council endorse the *Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Interim Guidelines and Procedures* attached as **Appendix B** to this report.

- (2) A further report be provided to Council in February 2010 in regard to the 15 Hours of Kindergarten Project and the impact on services and the Centralised Waiting List system.
- (3) Council's communication strategy noted in report also target disadvantaged families including young families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, newly arrived refugees and temporary protection VISA holders to promote kindergarten enrolments and attendance by these disadvantaged families.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The City of Darebin has a long standing commitment to and involvement in early years services. This commitment is based on the family and community benefits from these services and their positive contribution to the development of individuals and their communities.

Darebin's commitment to the delivery of kindergarten services is through the provision of infrastructure and the provision of support services to the staff and Committees that deliver the kindergarten programs. One of these support services is the administration of the Pre-school/kindergarten Central Enrolment system.

The State Government has a commitment for the provision of high quality early childhood programs one of which is kindergarten. The State provides funding for children attending an approved four year old kindergarten program.

The City of Darebin operates a Pre-school/Kindergarten Central Enrolment system to facilitate the placement of children wishing to access kindergarten programs in the municipality. Council has administered this system in conjunction with Committees of Management for more than 15 years. Currently there are 19 kindergartens and 8 child care centres (with an additional one commencing in September) and 3 Neighbourhood Houses participating in this system.

Families can apply for a place at kindergarten (both 3 and 4 year old programs) from the date of the child's second birthday. Families are asked to nominate 3 preferred centres that they would be willing to accept if a place is offered. The allocation of places commences in mid July in the year before the children will attend. The allocation of places is by receipt date order based on the first preference of centre. The majority of places are allocated through offers over three rounds (July to September) however offers continue to be made through to the commencement of the kindergarten year to fill the vacancies.

In Darebin the Pre-school/Kindergarten Central Enrolment Procedures have been reviewed bi-annually to ensure that they continue to provide equitable services for families who live, work or study in Darebin.

CORE ISSUES

Darebin was one of fourteen municipalities to participate in the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Project funded under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Reform Agenda and aimed at increasing enrolments and attendance at kindergarten particularly for disadvantaged families. At the core of this project were activities to ascertain whether schools had children commencing without attending kindergarten, identifying possible barriers to kindergarten attendance, gain an understanding of people's views on kindergarten and the enrolment process, and to promote kindergarten attendance to the community particularly those at a disadvantage. A household telephone survey of families with children aged between two and six years was undertaken with 291 respondents surveyed from across the municipality.

Council reviewed the guidelines and procedures for the placement of children in kindergarten as part of Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Project. The review was conducted in the light of UAECE objectives and the following factors:

- Strong demand for kindergarten places throughout Darebin and in particular in the southern area of the municipality.
- Darebin's enrolment and attendance rate for Kindergarten is lower than the State average 82.1% in 2006 compared with the State average of 92%.
- Since the last review the Centralised Waiting list for child care has commenced, the State Government has released its Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development and the Commonwealth Government has committed to providing universal access to preschool (kindergarten) for all children in the year before commencing school for fifteen (15) hours per week for 40 weeks of the year by 2013.
- The State Government supports 4 year old kindergarten programs through fee subsidies for each child. Currently the Victorian guidelines for the provision of kindergarten state that a child must receive a minimum of ten (10) hours per week. In Darebin most services offer ten hours with some offering up to 12 hours. The State Government provides limited support to 3 year old kindergarten programs only subsidising attendance for indigenous children and children known to Protective Services.
- Feedback from families particularly at allocation time that they are not satisfied with the Central Enrolment system. In the main these issues relate to the lack of places available (particularly for 3 year olds), and not being offered the centre which was their first preference. It is to be noted however that Darebin has in the past been able to offer all 4 year old children a place in a kindergarten.

The review considered the following matters:

Application fee

Information provided during the term of the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Project indicated that families who are disadvantaged may find the cost of applying for kindergarten a deterrent. Those participating in the project asked to consider removing or decreasing the application fee for those with a Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visas 447,451, 785,786 or Veteran's Affairs Gold Card.

Council currently charges \$15.00 to lodge an application for a kindergarten place with no reduction for the above mentioned card holders. Forecasting changes to income for Council is problematic as currently no data regarding the number of card holders is available however, the State's figure of 27.3% of children receiving fee subsidies when attending 4 year old kindergarten suggests that a reduction to \$5 per application for card holders with an increase to \$20 for other applicants would slightly increase Council's income.

Eligibility Criteria

Currently families can apply for a kindergarten place when their child turns two years of age. In undertaking this review 15 other Central Enrolment schemes were reviewed including those of our neighbouring municipalities (see Tabular Analysis attached as **Appendix A**). Ten of these municipalities also allocate by date of application. From time to time families raise the issue that they feel their children are being disadvantaged due to their date of birth. These families have the option to wait until the following year to access kindergarten which enhances their opportunity to access a place. Current research indicates that children's educational outcomes and social and emotional development are improved by a later start to kindergarten and school.

Another issue regularly raised is that those eligible to enrol and attend a kindergarten should be limited to residents of Darebin. Currently families who live, work, study or have care arrangements in Darebin may access kindergarten in Darebin. Some families would like to see access restricted for non-residents. In the majority of policies/procedures reviewed non-residents with links to the municipality such as carer, study, work or closest kindergarten are able to access but are either given a lower rating or allocated following residents.

Preference of Service

The current application form requests three preferences for both 4 year old and the 3 year old kindergarten programs. Children are allocated according to their preferences. Families have the option to change their preference up until the 30 June in the year prior to attendance. With the demand for centres in the southern area of the municipality being at a premium there can be long waiting lists for some centres. The most common number of preferences used by other municipalities is three however there is a range between two and six.

Sibling Preference

In the last Annual Customer survey of Central Enrolment Procedures and operations preference for siblings was raised by a small number of respondents. The two main requests for the introduction for this preference is that families want their children to attend the centre where older children have attended and when they have a child in three and four year old kindergarten in the one year. In considering this it has been essential we consider the following factors: the demand for places, new families moving to Darebin, the introduction of fifteen hours of kindergarten in 2013 and the number of three year old programs operating in Neighbourhood Houses.

Zoning

Across the municipality there are kindergarten programs which are in higher demand than others. This demand can relate to a number of factors such as number of families living in an area, the philosophy of the centre which determines how the program is planned and delivered, the spread of hours in which the program is delivered, the equipment provided at the centre, the staff at the centre and community perception. Whilst zoning may appear to be an option for reducing the demand for a centre difficulties may arise when the numbers of families living in an area reduce, the timetable for delivery of the program changes, the staff change and/or the philosophy of the centre changes, all of which can affect the demand for a centre. From the review of other central enrolment systems only one Council out of the 15 surveyed had a proximity zone for kindergartens and this was only applied to some kindergartens in that municipality.

Name of System

The name of the system Pre-school Enrolment system does not reflect the State Government's adoption and use of the word Kindergarten and thus causes confusion in the community. Also the use of the word "enrolment" implies that all children will be provided with a place. Whilst most four year old children do receive a place, there are many three year old children who do not receive a place in the three year old program. Changing the name of the system to the Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List is more reflective of the current approach.

Communication Strategy

Much of the feedback received related to the lack of places available to families and the allocation procedures and time frames. Whilst families receive written information regarding the groups at each centre and the process for allocation of places very few people retain this section of the application form. A communication strategy which incorporates these matters and the value of kindergarten would potentially reduce the amount of negative feedback received.

Much of the feedback received from families relates to

- perceived lack of available kindergarten places in the municipality. In essence this is related only to a particular part of the municipality and 1 or 2 high demand kindergartens. Families are offered places at other kindergartens but families are not happy to travel to a neighbouring suburb. It is not possible to satisfy 100 families when only 50 children can be placed at these high demand sites.
- allocation procedures and time frames. Whilst families receive written information regarding the groups at each centre and the process for allocation of places very few people retain this section of the application form. In July through to September each year there is a flurry of anxiety amongst families when children do not receive a first round offer, or a second round offer or a third round offer. Public innuendo and misinformation abounds adding to the anxiety of families. In time all children can be offered a place as the allocation process continues through to the beginning of the kindergarten year.

A communication strategy which incorporates these matters and the value of kindergarten would potentially reduce the amount of negative feedback received.

The review of the Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Guidelines and Procedures was completed within the parameters of reducing barriers to kindergarten attendance and in light of this the following changes are recommended to our current procedures (as included in the Draft Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Guidelines and Procedures attached as **Appendix B** to this report) to ensure equitable access to kindergarten sessions for all eligible children:

- The Pre-school Central Enrolment System be changed to Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List System which clearly articulates that families have placed their children on a waiting list for a place at kindergarten.
- The Guidelines and Procedures be “Interim” to allow for further mini reviews as we learn more and more about the impacts of change across the early childhood arena. The Guidelines and Procedures can be adapted as required.
- The eligibility criteria be amended to “Children of families who live, work, study, or are cared for in the City of Darebin and those who live outside the municipality but a kindergarten in Darebin is their closest kindergarten to their residence”. Families will be asked to provide proof of their work, study or care arrangements. Those living outside the municipality with no connections would be given a lower ranking.
- Up to four preferences (centres that families are willing to attend) can be listed thus broadening the options that families have. This may reduce the anxiety of not receiving a place at a preferred centre. A statement to say that they are willing to accept one of these preferences if offered would be placed on the application form.
- A reduction in the application for those with a Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visas 447,451,785,786 or Veteran’s Affairs Gold Card to \$5.00 with an increase in the fee for other applicants to \$20.00 to be implemented from 1st January.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Draft Kindergarten Centralised Waiting list Interim Guidelines and Procedures were drawn up within the parameters of reducing barriers to kindergarten attendance. In particular the recommended changes to the application fees address a barrier faced by disadvantaged families. The Universal Access to Early Childhood Education Project identified that removing or decreasing the application fee for those families with a Health Care Card, Pensioner Concession Card, Temporary Protection/Humanitarian Visa 447, 451, 785, 786 or Veteran’s Affairs Gold Card would increase participation in kindergarten programs.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Council has a funded role in planning for the implementation of the 15 hours of kindergarten (COAG Reform Agenda). Ongoing liaison with the State Government in regard to the impact on current Kindergarten and Child Care Centres and the impact on placement of children in kindergarten programs is essential as is ongoing review of the Guidelines and Procedures document. It is anticipated that suggested changes to application and allocation processes will be forwarded to Council for endorsement on an ongoing basis through the planning and implementation phases of the 15 hours of kindergarten project.
- Further investigation into the separation of allocation periods for three and four year old kindergarten to avoid confusion within the community concerning what is a funded program and what is currently parental choice.
- One of the anticipated issues over the following twelve months that will arise from the planning of the 15 hours of kindergarten is the role 3 year old programs and what part should Council play in this early years program.
- The development and implementation of a communication strategy to inform the community of the changes in procedure and to better inform them about the process from the time of application to the time of commencing at kindergarten.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Kindergarten Central Enrolment Policy Analysis (see **Appendix A**)

Draft Kindergarten Centralised Waiting List Interim Guidelines and Procedures (see **Appendix B**)

Universal Access to Early Childhood Project Report

Universal Access to Early Childhood Survey

Pre-school Central Enrolment Survey 2008

8.8 HEALTH AND HOSPITAL REFORM COMMISSION REPORT**MINUTE NO. 338****AUTHOR: Manager, Family, Youth & Community Support - Dean Griggs****MANAGER: General Manager Communities and Culture - Jan Black****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Nil****SUMMARY:**

This report responds to a Council resolution on 17 August 2009 requesting Council officers to prepare a submission to the Health and Hospital Reform Commission Report 'A Healthy Future for All Australians'.

The report, released in June has 123 recommendations and outlines the Federal Government's blueprint for health report over the coming decades. The recommendations in the report have both a number of risks and opportunities for Council and the wider local government sector. On 14 August 2009 Council was invited to attend part of the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Federal Health Minister Nicola Roxon's 'listening tour' for the proposed changes outlined in the Commission Report.

CONSULTATION

Darebin Health and Wellbeing Committee

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT

- (1) The Darebin Council feedback attached as **Appendix A** to this report be submitted to the Health and Hospital Reform Commission.
- (2) Council send a copy of this report and attachment to:
 - The Municipal Association of Victoria; and
 - Members of the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee.
- (3) The Darebin Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee remain actively involved in the reform process on behalf of the local community as the reforms are implemented.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Darebin City Council has a strong record of understanding its community in terms the complexity of local health need and access to the health system as a whole. Such work has been undertaken as part of our Municipal Public Health Plan and has included the development and publication of two documents: *The Bulk Billing Crisis: A Victorian Perspective* and *Complex Needs in a Complex System*. These reports were developed as a response to the changing landscape of the Australian health system and its impact at the local level. *The Bulk Billing Crisis*, particularly targeted at community groups throughout Victoria, aimed to provide a picture of bulk billing rates across the state as well as a basic introduction to the changes to Medicare put forward by the Federal Government in 2003. As a result of this work Council presented at the Senate inquiry into Medicare. The *Complex Needs in a Complex System* report focused on the health system at a municipal level. The report highlighted the many layers of health funding that co-exist in Darebin and is an example of the challenges consumers face when trying to navigate their way through their individual treatment. The City of Darebin has also been active in advocating to the Federal Government regarding these issues. In April 2005 Council made a submission to the House of Representatives Inquiry into Health Funding.

Council, in partnership with Northern Health, has also been instrumental in establishing the *Planning for a Healthier North: Regional Health Consortium* which has approximately 30 member agencies representing local government, hospitals, divisions of general practice, community health centres, mental health services and district nursing. This consortium now in its third year seeks to take a regional approach to health planning and acknowledges that collaboration is a key element to successful and efficient population health planning.

The combination of all this work provides a strong platform for any potential discussions with the National Health and Hospital Reform Commission.

CORE ISSUES

Key Elements

The Commission report released in June is titled 'A Healthier Future for all Australians'. The following provides some of the key elements relevant for local government and our community.

Broadly the report identifies three broad reform goals with priorities for each:

Tackle the major access and equity issues that affect people now

Equity, or 'fairness' to use everyday language, must be at the heart of the Australian health system.

The report focuses on five priorities for improving access and equity.

- (1) Improving health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- (2) Improve care for people with a serious mental illness
- (3) Support for people living in remote and rural areas
- (4) Improved access to dental care
- (5) Timely access to quality care in hospitals

In addition to the above five priority areas the government has suggested National Access Targets be established to measure whether there is improved access as a result of the reforms.

Redesign our health system to meet emerging challenges

The second goal for reforming the health system aims at **fundamental redesign** that will allow a better response to emerging challenges. It is based on three design elements.

- (1) Embed prevention and early intervention
- (2) Connect and integrate health and aged care services
- (3) Next generation of medicare

Create an agile, responsive and self-improving health system for future generations.

This goal articulates the creation of an agile and self improving health system for long-term sustainability.

- (1) Strengthened consumer engagement and voice
- (2) Modern, learning and supported workforce
- (3) Smart use of data, information and communication
- (4) Well-designed funding and strategic purchasing
- (5) Knowledge-led continuous improvement, innovation and research

A key tenet of the report is reforming governance. The commission states that:

'To ensure Australia's health system is sustainable, safe, fair and agile enough to respond to people's changing health needs and a changing world, we need to make significant changes to the way it is governed'

As a result two recommendations are put forward.

1. Healthy Australian Accord

*First Ministers to agree to a new **Healthy Australia Accord** that clearly articulates the agreed and complementary roles and responsibilities of all governments in improving health services and outcomes for all Australians. The Accord retains a governance model of shared responsibility for health care between the Commonwealth and state governments, but with significantly re-aligned roles and responsibilities*

2. Medicare Select

*In brief, under '**Medicare Select**', the Commonwealth Government would be the sole government funder of health services. All Australians would automatically belong to a government operated **health and hospital plan**, which could be a national plan or a plan operated by a state government. People could readily select to move to another health and hospital plan, which could be another government operated plan, or a plan operated by a not-for-profit or private enterprise. Similar to Medicare now, health and hospital plans would cover a mandatory set of health services made explicit in a **universal service obligation**, which would include hospital and medical care and pharmaceuticals.*

Implementing the reforms

The report details each of the 123 reforms and who should be responsible for the reforms, which reforms require changes to government responsibilities and also if legislative change is required. The first step of reform should be for the Council of Australian Governments to agree in 2009 to develop the new **Healthy Australia Accord** for adoption in 2010.

Both recurrent and capital financial implications are provided in the report both of which are in the billions.

Darebin Council Feedback

Darebin City Council commends the National Health and Hospital Reform commission for its efforts to date in leading a discussion about the future of the health system in Australia. We are pleased to have the opportunity to be part of this important national discussion.

Local Government in Victoria has a significant role in health care as both a planner and deliverer of services. This is not covered adequately in the commission interim report. Darebin Council recommends that the commission consult with local governments in Victoria via the Municipal Association of Victoria to gain a comprehensive understanding of the functions of Local Government with specific emphasis on aged services, the early years and our unique role in population health planning via our statutory requirement to produce a Municipal Public Health Plan / Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years.

The report outlines a way forward for both aged services and the early years, with specific reference to maternal and child health. It should be noted that in Victoria local government invests significantly in both these service delivery areas and the models are robust with many years invested in refining our approach. Any move to provide a national framework or platform for both aged care and maternal and child health should not be at the detriment of existing practices in Victoria. In particular, the universal coverage of the maternal and child health program and the significant contact with families in the first year of a child's life are fundamental to the wellbeing of families in Victoria and our own community in Darebin. We urge the commission to proceed with caution in introducing reforms to this already well functioning and highly regarded program.

The reforms call for increased early intervention and detection of young people who may be at risk of experiencing a mental illness. This is a welcome opportunity which may be able to build the youth programs offered by Council.

It is recommended that Council and our local partners via the Municipal Public Health Plan / Health and Wellbeing Plan should continue to play an active role in understanding local health need and access to services in order to take up any opportunities which may flow as a result of the reform process.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Not Applicable

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Health and Hospital Reform Commission recommendations will have significant impacts on social inclusion and diversity in Darebin. All 123 recommendations set out to make Australia a healthier place and in doing so will make improvements to mental health, access to health services and establish a national approach to promoting good health.

Other

Not Applicable

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FUTURE ACTIONS

As per recommendations

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Report - Proposed Revamp of Commonwealth and State Government roles for aged and disability services – 15 September 2008.

8.9 DAREBIN WHITE RIBBON ACTION TEAM UPDATE**MINUTE NO. 339****AUTHOR:** Coordinator, Preventing Violence Against Women – Kellie Nagle**MANAGER:** General Manager Communities and Culture – Jan Black**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within budget**SUMMARY:**

The White Ribbon Campaign runs from 25 November to 10 December each year. The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team is organising and participating in a number of events and social marketing opportunities; and is seeking Council's support for this work.

CONSULTATION:

Internal consultation with the White Ribbon Action Team and general staff.

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

THAT Council receive and endorse the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

CARRIED**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Council's progress in the White Ribbon Campaign and preventing violence against women more generally; and to seek endorsement for pursuing activities articulated in the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan 2009 (see **Appendix A**).

The White Ribbon Campaign began in Montreal Canada in 1991 by a handful of men in response to one man's massacre of 14 women. These men felt a responsibility to urge men to speak out against male violence against women. They did this through wearing a white ribbon as a symbol of men's opposition to violence against women.

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly declared 25 November the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the White Ribbon has become the symbol for the day. The campaign runs for 16 days through until 10 December, the International Day for Human Rights.

The campaign has developed to be the largest effort in the world of men working to end violence against women and in 2008, has grown to include fifty-seven countries around the world.

Darebin's participation in the White Ribbon Campaign has developed rapidly in recent years. The chronology below, and development of the Strategic Plan, is testament to the capacity building occurring at an individual, organisational and community level.

2005 and 2006

- Sale of White Ribbons at Customer Service Centres for 16 Days of Action.

2007

- Sale of White Ribbons at Customer Service Centres for 16 Days of Action.
- Over 200 people attend the launch of Northern Region Family Violence Help Cards at Melba Spiegeltent Northcote, with White Ribbons handed out as 'tickets' on entry to event. White Ribbon Ambassadors, Leigh Gassner and Phil Cleary were amongst the speakers.
- Faith leaders from the Darebin Interfaith Council sign a Declaration Against Family Violence on White Ribbon Day.
- White Ribbon Breakfast held for Council staff. Fourteen men attended.

2008

- Established the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team in May 2008.
- Council organised two White Ribbon 'Not Violent Not Silent' breakfasts (August and October) in partnership with neighbouring Councils, VicHealth and Spectrum MRC. Over 200 community leaders attended each event to learn more about the White Ribbon Campaign.
- The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team organised a Council Departmental Challenge for White Ribbon Campaign 2008, whereby all Departments were set the challenge to participate in the campaign.

Activities undertaken included:

- Sale of White Ribbons and wristbands at Customer Service Centres for 16 Days of Action, plus further awareness raising through local paper advertising, Council's 'on hold' message and website, and email communications from the Chief Executive Officer.
- White Ribbon stall and Council staff march through the Preston Market.
- Council staff morning tea and quiz.
- 'Not Violent Not Silent' magnets attached to garbage and other Council trucks for the 16 days of Action.
- 'Not Violent Not Silent' bookmarks distributed with all library books for the 16 days of Action.
- Four Darebin Council Officers became White Ribbon Ambassadors and thirteen Council staff and other Darebin leaders attended a premier White Ribbon event at State Parliament.
- Northern Interfaith Leaders event held at MAYA Aboriginal Healing Centre, with two Darebin faith leaders and one Indigenous leader becoming White Ribbon Ambassadors.
- White Ribbon BBQ held at the Council Depot.

- Creation of a six foot wire White Ribbon.
- Staff evaluation of campaign participation and effectiveness.

2009

- Councillor and Officer are invited to present on our participation in the White Ribbon Campaign to the VLGA Mayors' Retreat.
- The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team develops a Strategic Plan for 2009.
- Council funds a new initiative in the 2009-10 budget for a dedicated Preventing Violence Against Women Officer.
- Council is invited to join the White Ribbon National Leadership Group for a term of 2 years.
- Council's Youth Services representative is invited to participate in the White Ribbon Ambassador resource development process.
- A further Council Officer nominates as an Ambassador.
- Darebin initiates proposal for a Northern Region White Ribbon Leaders Lunch in the lead up to the campaign at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre on November 4 2009.

CORE ISSUES

There are significant opportunities ahead, and potential resources, for local government to engage in the primary prevention of violence against women. It is now a recognised long-term priority at a national and state level, with local government a key partner to their successful implementation.

"When it comes to integrated violence prevention the local government scale is most appropriate at involving and coordinating relevant actors, ensuring equity... and promoting civic awareness and engagement to the issue" (GLOVE Project, Whitzman 2008:144).

The National Plan for Australia to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, 2009-2021, *Time for Action* was released in May 2009.

The State Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010-2020 is due to be released on November 25 2009.

The Northern Region Leaders Lunch will also provide a base-line matrix of mutually reinforcing strategies occurring across the region, to identify gaps and opportunities to further our work, and a basis to measure our progress.

Council continues to grow and consolidate our expertise in the field of preventing violence against women. Recognition has occurred locally, across the region and state, as well as nationally, through our leadership and participation in the White Ribbon Campaign and organisational commitment to preventing violence against women.

Local Leadership supporting the prevention of violence against women includes:

- Council articulates women's equity in the Council Plan 2009-13.
- Preventing violence against women is articulated as a priority area in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-13.
- Council is establishing a Women's Advisory Committee.
- Council has established an internal Gender Equity Working Group.

- Council continues to convene and support the Darebin Domestic Violence Network.
- Council is the first local government in Victoria to fund a dedicated position for a Prevention of Violence Against Women Officer. On 14 September 2009 an Officer commenced in this position 2 days per week for 12 months.
- Council is working with faith leaders through the Northern Interfaith Respectful Relationships Project, jointly funded by VicHealth and Council until June 2011.
- VicHealth has funded Council for 12 months to network with local governments across Victoria to build capacity for preventing violence against women.

The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team:

The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team has received active representation from all Council Departments since forming in May 2008.

At present there are 30 Council representatives (24 men and 6 women) who have requested inclusion on the White Ribbon email list, with a core group of 10 regularly attending meetings.

A coordinating group has been established to provide general support and coordination of the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team and the Preventing Violence Against Women Project Worker.

The Team has undertaken a strategic planning process and recently completed the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan for 2009. The Plan has a vision of *A community free of violence against women*, and contains three significant aims to prevent violence against women:

1. To strengthen Darebin City Council's capacity to end violence against women and embed prevention work in everything we do.
2. To develop partnerships and strengthen the community's capacity to end violence against women.
3. To build our own individual capacity to end violence against women.

The Team is now ready to implement the actions articulated within the Plan, and will be greatly assisted by the newly appointed Preventing Violence Against Women Officer. Some of last years successful components are being repeated, and many new ideas also emerging from the Team.

Regional Leadership:

In addition to the Northern Interfaith Respectful Relationships Project (above), Council has initiated and is leading regional collaboration through a number of forums. This includes:

- Northern Region Women's Policy Network (established June 2009).
- Northern Region White Ribbon Leaders Lunch (proposed 4 November 2009)
- Northern Region White Ribbon Network (established June 2008).
- Ongoing collaboration and partnership with Maribyrnong City Council to share resources and ideas to build capacity to prevent violence against women.

The Northern Region White Ribbon Leaders Lunch aims to build on the highly successful 'Not Violent, Not Silent' breakfasts Council initiated and hosted in 2008, and provide an opportunity to share best practice examples in existing primary prevention with peers and develop new opportunities for primary prevention across the North.

Council is also the invited local government representative on the Northern Region Family Violence Strategic Network chaired by Cheryl Garbutt (former local member for Banyule and Minister in the Brack's government), and is also represented on the high-level North West Metropolitan Region Integrated Family Violence Steering Committee.

State-wide Leadership:

VicHealth selected Council as the successful applicant to undertake the State-wide Local Government Networking and Capacity Building Project to Prevent Violence Against Women.

Council was also invited to participate in the development of the VicHealth Short Course to Prevent Violence Against Women, which will be offered to local governments from early 2010. A Council Officer has also been sponsored by VicHealth to train and deliver the course in the future.

In addition, Council was asked to join the Local Government, Health and Community Services Working Group to develop the State Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010-2020, due for release on 25 November 2009 (White Ribbon Day) and will feature local government as a critical partner to its successful implementation.

All of the above clearly illustrates our reputation is growing as leaders in the field.

National Leadership:

At the national level, Council was asked to join the National White Ribbon Leadership Group to provide strategic support and advice for campaign direction for a period of 2 years. Whilst the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is an existing member of the Group, Darebin City Council is the only local government invited to be represented as we are seen to be national leaders in local government in this campaign. The ALGA has received a copy of the Darebin White Ribbon Strategic Plan and will be showcasing this at their Board Meeting on 24 September 2009. Council has also shared our own resources, including the Strategic Plan, via the White Ribbon Foundation to a national audience.

In addition, White Ribbon recently sponsored a representative from Council Youth Services to attend a two-day forum to workshop development of resources and campaign materials.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

- Many of the Darebin White Ribbon Campaign activities planned for 2009 can recycle materials produced in 2008, for example magnets for garbage trucks, placards for market stall, large wire ribbon.
- Women who experience violence in their home are less likely to engage in environmentally sustainable activity.
- Women and children forced from their home due to violence to refuge or emergency accommodation (primarily hotels), are less able to engage in environmental purchasing or activity.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Council's commitment to respect, community diversity and wellbeing are vital elements to successful primary prevention. The significant investment, achievement and endeavour by Council to date, including the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team, are clearly aligned and strengthened by a number of important documents, including:

- Council Plan
- Community Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Human Rights Charter
- Diversity Policy
- Social Inclusion Framework

Other

The recent release of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2009-2021 and imminent release of the State Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010-2020, places local government in an exciting position to further grow and consolidate our leadership and capacity to demonstrate best practice in primary prevention of violence against women.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial resources for preventing violence against women initiatives in 2009-10 total \$337,000, made up of:

- \$60,000 Council financial contribution (plus in-kind support)
- \$59,000 Partner contributions (neighbouring Councils and community agencies)
- \$218,000 VicHealth funding

Council has invested \$50,000 as a new initiative in 2009-10 budget to create a dedicated Preventing Violence Against Women Officer.

Council further invests \$10,000 per annum (July 2008-June 2011) towards VicHealth's funding for the Northern Interfaith Respectful Relationships Project.

Costs associated with activities contained within the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team are minimal, with many resources being recycled from 2008 activities. In addition, Council's new initiative investment is able to support activities where additional resources are required.

The financial implications of hosting Darebin White Ribbon Action Team meetings are nominal, with meetings held over lunchtimes.

Council has also received funding from VicHealth in 2009-10 to network with local government across to Victoria to build capacity around preventing violence against women.

Council has also generated almost \$60,000 in contributions from State Government, neighbouring Councils and community partners to reprint the Men's and Women's Family Violence Help Cards and translate these into 13 community languages.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Hold the Northern Region White Ribbon Leaders Lunch.
- Work with MAV to advocate for local government engagement in preventing violence against women through development of a Motion to State Council.
- Promote Councils efforts to the Northern Region Chief Executives Forum.
- Support presentation outlining Councils efforts to Chief Executive's National Meeting.
- Develop strategic partnerships with other Councils and state government to help raise awareness of the White Ribbon Campaign and opportunities to prevent violence against women.
- Provide further updates to Council of the 2009 White Ribbon Campaign.
- Invite Councillors to participate in the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team and other events including becoming a White Ribbon Ambassador.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Strategic Plan 2009 (**Appendix A**)
- Proposal for Northern Region White Ribbon Leaders Luncheon
- Council Report 4 May 2009
- Darebin Council Plan 2009-2013
- Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013
- State Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010-2020
- National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2009-2021

8.10 COMMUNITY FACILITY FUNDING PROGRAM - MINOR FACILITY GRANTS 2010 - 2011**MINUTE NO. 340****AUTHOR:** Acting Manager Leisure Services – Susan Hecker**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** The SRV Minor Facilities Grants allows for three Council submissions. Should all three Council submissions be successful the financial implications for the 2010/2011 Council Capital Works program will be \$162,500.**SUMMARY:**

The Minor Facility Grants 2010/2011 form part of the Community Facility Funding Program run by Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV). This program is an annual program providing up to \$60,000 grants to encourage and strengthen communities through development of sustainable sport and recreation facilities.

The grants require matched funding 1:1, and allow for three (3) Council submissions, two (2) for projects with a maximum value of \$250,000 and one (1) project with a maximum value of \$60,000.

This year three projects have been selected for Council submission which best meet the SRV criteria: Darebin Women's Sports Club, Northcote Cricket Club and Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club. These submissions if successful commit Council to a total of \$162,500 Capital works funding in the 2010/2011 financial cycle.

The closing date for submissions is 23 September 2009.

CONSULTATION:

Clubs were provided with information and encouraged to make a submission. Three separate forms of advice were provided to sports clubs via:

- Sports club email list
- Hard copy mail out
- An advertisement was placed in the Northcote and Preston Leader Newspapers

Enquiries

- Eight general enquiries were received
- One meeting was requested and held with West Preston Lakeside Football Club

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) Council endorse Minor Facility Grant submissions to Sport and Recreation Victoria for:
 - Darebin Women's Sports Club for the construction of cricket practice nets at A.H. Capp Reserve;
 - Northcote Cricket Club Inc. for the construction of Outdoor Multi-purpose training area at Bill Lawry Oval; and
 - Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club for the construction of training lights at D.R. Atkinson Reserve.
- (2) The clubs who made submissions be notified of the outcomes of the process

MOTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan

SECONDED: Cr. S. Tsitas

THAT:

- (1) Council endorse Minor Facility Grant submissions to Sport and Recreation Victoria for:
 - Darebin Women's Sports Club for the construction of cricket practice nets at A.H. Capp Reserve;
 - Northcote Cricket Club Inc. for the construction of Outdoor Multi-purpose training area at Bill Lawry Oval; and
 - Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club for the construction of training lights at D.R. Atkinson Reserve.
- (2) The clubs who made submissions be notified of the outcomes of the process

AMENDMENT

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

THAT:

- (1) Council endorse Minor Facility Grant submissions to Sport and Recreation Victoria for:
 - Darebin Women's Sports Club for the construction of cricket practice nets at A.H. Capp Reserve;
 - Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club for construction of 100 lux lights at Donath Reserve; and
 - Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club for the construction of training lights at D.R. Atkinson Reserve.
- (2) The clubs who made submissions be notified of the outcomes of the process

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION

THE SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

- (1) Council endorse Minor Facility Grant submissions to Sport and Recreation Victoria for:
 - Darebin Women's Sports Club for the construction of cricket practice nets at A.H. Capp Reserve;
 - Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club for construction of 100 lux lights at Donath Reserve; and
 - Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club for the construction of training lights at D.R. Atkinson Reserve.
- (2) The clubs who made submissions be notified of the outcomes of the process

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) Community Facility Funding Program (CFFP) is an annual round of funding provided by the Department of Planning and Community Development. This report discusses the Minor Facility funding criteria and the assessment process for the 2010-2011 CFFP.

The Minor Facilities funding program is designed to support Councils in their planning and strategic development of leisure facilities for the community. Council makes submissions in line with Darebin's strategic planning priorities. The community cannot make direct submissions to SRV but can make a project submission to Council. If the submission meets the SRV Criteria and fits with Councils strategic and capital planning processes then Council may prepare a submission for the project to SRV for consideration.

Up to \$60,000 is available for the development and upgrade of community sport and recreation facilities where the total estimated project costs are up to \$250,000.

Council can submit:

- Two projects to the value of \$250,000 maximum
- One project to the value of \$60,000 maximum

The maximum grant for each successful application will be \$60,000 per project and Council must match the funding 1:1.

Sport and Recreation Victoria encourage financial contributions from sporting clubs where they are involved and this is covered in the grant criteria.

The initial criterion for assessment is whether the proposed project fits into these categories in terms of total estimated project costs and project category definition.

Certain types of projects will not be funded by SRV including:

- Where project has already commenced
- Purchases of land
- Where there is no public access
- Areas designated as licensed within proposed facility
- Repairs, maintenance or operational costs
- Equipment purchases

Sport and Recreation Victoria Assessment Criteria

Provision is made under the Minor Facilities category for the community to submit applications to Council for consideration. Minor funding encourages clubs, councils, organisations and communities to develop local sports and recreation facilities.

Weighted assessment criteria are also utilised and are summarised below:

- Demonstrated evidence that the project will lead to increased involvement and participation and improve access to those groups traditionally disadvantaged. (50% weighted score)
- Demonstrated evidence of demand, local support and strategic linkages to existing development plans. (20% weighted score)
- Demonstrated evidence of project collaboration and partnership in planning, implementation, and funding. Innovation and creativity in responding to an issue. Evidence of project sustainability. (20% weighted score)
- Demonstrated evidence of planned project management, partnership and stakeholder management and communication, joint or partnership funding contributions. (10% weighted score)

Council Assessment Criteria

Additional criteria may be applied by Council officers in assessing a broad range of applications across the municipality for SRV consideration as follows:

- Project fits and complements the Council Plan, Master Plans and other strategic studies on the provision of sport and recreation.
- Project spreads resources equitably in all areas of the municipality as well as among sporting codes where possible
- This year five community submissions for Minor Facility Grants were received by Council

CORE ISSUES

Submissions considered

All submissions received were assessed against the SRV criteria and given a Low, Medium or High rating for meeting the SRV Criteria.

Club & Ground	What is requested	Meets criteria	SRV	Total project cost
Darebin Womens Sports Club A.H Capp Reserve	2 Cricket practice nets including synthetic grass wickets	High		\$50,000
Northcote Cricket Club Inc. Bill Lawry Oval	Outdoor Synthetic Surface training area suitable for Cricket, Football and Netball	Medium		\$150,000
Keon Park Tennis Club J.C Donath Reserve	Upgrade of 2 Tennis Courts to Plexi-cushion Surfaces	Medium		\$100,000
Northern Socials Cricket	Additional Cricket Practice Net	Low		\$25,000

Club & Ground	What is requested	Meets criteria	SRV	Total project cost
Club W.R Ruthven Reserve				
Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club J.C Donath Reserve	Upgrade of Sportsfield Lighting to Competition Standard	Low		\$336,160

In addition to the above criteria, SRV request that Councils contact them to discuss Council's submissions to ascertain the likelihood of these submissions being successful. Discussions with SRV were held and it was established that two of the projects were best suited to a submission being further developed, Bill Lawry Oval Multi-purpose Facility and the AH Capp Reserve Cricket Training nets. The remaining three projects would be unlikely to receive funding in this round for the following reasons:

Keon Park Tennis Club – Councils submission for Court lighting was successful in 2009/2010. This project is proceeding this capital works cycle. Last years submission successfully demonstrated how the lighting would increase participation for the tennis club. This year's submission for upgrading the same tennis courts, whilst meeting some of Council's criteria would be very unlikely to receive funding from SRV. This is due to the submission being seen by SRV as providing funding ostensibly for the same project.

Northern Socials Cricket Club – this submission is for repairs and additional practice nets. The club has two existing nets in good condition which adequately service the 4 senior teams, 3 junior teams and one veterans team. It is very unlikely that this submission would receive funding due to a lack of demonstrated need or demonstrated increase in participation.

Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club – this submission is requesting a lighting upgrade to JC Donath Reserve South East Oval 1, from training lights to competition standard lights 150 lux lighting. At present Northern Football League does not run a night competition. The Northern Football League has indicated that if more facilities across several municipalities had night lighting they would trial a night competition.

The application is similar to previously unsuccessful Council applications that were considered by SRV to be underdeveloped in terms of establishing a need based on increased demand or participation. A clear link to Councils strategic planning, an established night football competition and a clear demonstration of how night lights would increase participation is still lacking. Council has costed the project at \$336,160 (including contingencies) for 150 lux lights. This cost would exceed the minor grant category parameters of \$250,000.

This project would commit Council to a level of capital works which is not supported in Council's strategic planning. Council is currently preparing a Leisure Strategy to establish a direction for major recreation capital resources that will guide the planning and capital works for sports infrastructure for the next ten years. It would be prudent to await the findings of the strategy before proceeding with larger scale works as proposed in this club application.

Council Submission

In addition to the five applications forwarded to Council for consideration, Council officers have also identified a further project which would be suitable for consideration to SRV.

D.R. Atkinson Reserve Training Lights

D.R Atkinson Reserve is home to Reservoir Strikers who are a soccer club that was set up with assistance from Council. The club is comprised of people from Iraqi background and includes players from the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal area. The existing lighting at D.R. Atkinson Reserve is not suitable for training and will be further reduced as lighting attached to the pavilion requires removal due to risk concerns arising from poor condition.

Lighting renewal had been planned for D.R Atkinson Reserve as the first project from Council's Sportsfield Lighting Renewal Program, which is based on replacing the sportsfield lighting in the poorest condition. However, following a light pole that fell in high winds at Bill Lawry Oval, the funding that had been earmarked for D.R. Atkinson Reserve was transferred to Bill Lawry Oval lighting renewal due to safety concerns of the current lighting infrastructure.

The continuation and expansion of the soccer program at D.R. Atkinson Reserve is an important part of Council's work with emerging communities. An upgrade in lighting will allow full use of the ground for training and the opportunity for development of additional teams.

This submission was assessed against the SRV criteria.

Club & Ground	What is requested	Meets SRV criteria	Total project cost
Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club D.R. Atkinson Reserve	Training lights at 50 Lux	High	\$110,000

After considering the above information it is recommended that Council officers make submissions for the following projects:

- Darebin Women's Sports Club for the construction of cricket practice nets at A.H. Capp Reserve;
- Northcote Cricket Club Inc. for the construction of Outdoor Multi-purpose training area at Bill Lawry Oval and
- Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club for the construction of training lights at D.R. Atkinson Reserve

Key points

- Council can only submit three applications as part of the Building Community Infrastructure Minor Facilities category.
- Two of these applications must have a total project cost of up to \$250,000 one application must have a total project cost of \$60,000 or less
- Funding provided by the State Government is capped at \$60,000
- The applications must be worthy of consideration with accurate information that meet the key selection criteria provided by the State Government, overlaid with Council's priorities for sport and recreation development

- By committing to these applications now, Council commits to provide the required funds in the next capital works budget program
- Councils will be provided with notice of successful funding from October 2009 onwards
- Closing date for submissions to SRV is the 17th September. Council has been successful in receiving an extension to this which closes on the 23rd September, 2009.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There are not expected to be any significant environmental implications resulting from the implementation of the Cricket Practice Nets or the Multi-use Outdoor Training area. The proposed D.R. Atkinson Training Lights will be installed as best practice 50lux luminaires and will be in line with Councils Lighting Strategy. The Environmental Strategy area will be consulted in the planning and implementation of this project

Social Inclusion and Diversity

It is envisaged that these projects will generate positive outcomes for the community with all three of these projects providing additional opportunities for the general public. The community will have access to the Multi-use Training Facility and the Cricket Nets during the day including school groups. In addition to this cricket nets for the Darebin Women's Sports Club contributes towards Councils commitment to supporting Women's sport. A.H. Capp Reserve is Council's only all Women based facility.

The training lights at D.R. Atkinson provide the opportunity for the general community to utilise the park during the evenings whilst training is occurring for informal recreation such as walking dogs and jogging. The Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club based at D.R. Atkinson Reserve was set up with assistance of Council and is comprised of people from Iraqi background and includes players from the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal area. The implementation of this project would benefit this traditionally disadvantaged group.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial considerations are as follows:

Club	Ground	What is requested	SRV Cost	Club Contribution	Council Cost	Total project cost (incl. contingencies)
Darebin Women's Sports Club	A.H Capp Reserve	2 Cricket practice nets including synthetic grass wickets	\$25,000	\$2,500	\$ 22,500	\$ 50,000

Northcote Cricket Club Inc.	Bill Lawry Oval	Outdoor Synthetic Surface training area suitable for Cricket, Football and Netball	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$ 85,000	\$150,000
Reservoir Strikers Soccer Club	D.R Atkinson Reserve	Training lights at 50Lux	\$55,000	NIL	\$ 55,000	\$110,000
Total					<u>\$162,500</u>	

The maximum cost to Council if all three projects are successful would be \$162,500. This would need to be allocated in the 2010/2011 Capital Works program to match the funding provided by Sport and Recreation Victoria.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Council Officers will complete the submission process with Sport and Recreation Victoria no later than Wednesday 23 September 2009.

Clubs who made submissions are notified of the outcomes of the process

Sport and Recreation Victoria will announce successful grants from October 2009 onwards.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Sport in the North
- SRV Community Facility Funding Program 2010/2011 guidelines

**8.11 NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING
REINSTATEMENT****MINUTE NO. 341****AUTHOR:** **Manager, Family, Youth & Community Support - Dean Griggs
Neighbourhood Renewal Place Manager - Emma Tacey****MANAGER:** **General Manager Communities and Culture - Jan Black****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** **Potential loss of state government funding****SUMMARY:**

The recent state budget delivered an unforeseen outcome for the Neighbourhood Renewal Initiative located in East Reservoir. Information from the recent state government budget indicated that the four Neighbourhood Renewal projects announced in 2005 would now only have funding confirmed for 6 years rather than 8 years as previously expected and communicated.

Minister Wynne has now formally announced the funding has been reinstated - see **Appendix A**.

This report details the advocacy activities undertaken by the local community and Council to reinstate the funding.

CONSULTATION

East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Committee

Darebin Community Health

Melbourne Citymission

Department of Human Services North and West Region

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council write to the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Committee commending them on their advocacy efforts to have the funding for the project reinstated.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

- (1) Write to the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Committee commending them on their advocacy efforts to have the funding for the project reinstated.
- (2) Write to the Minister for Housing, the Hon Richard Wynne MP and congratulate him on his efforts to restore 2 years funding to the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal project.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

In October 2005 the State Government announced East Reservoir had been selected as a Neighbourhood Renewal Project area. Neighbourhood Renewal is a flagship project within the State Government that aims to address issues of locational disadvantage by improving a range of factors including access to employment and learning opportunities, physical improvements to public housing and building a sense of community connectedness among residents.

Darebin Council has a unique relationship with Neighbourhood Renewal, and was the first local government to trial the Place Manager position as a local government staff member. This decision was taken to test this model as one which may be applied in other Councils and was an acknowledgement of Darebin's ability to work in true partnership with the state government and its capacity to be innovative as an organisation. A number of Councils now have the Place Manager directly employed by local government. It should be noted that those sites with the Place Manager directly employed with the Department of Human Services have a mixed level of engagement with local government.

The project involves two other organisations as key partners contracted to deliver specific components: Darebin Community Health for the community development project officer and Melbourne Citymission for the contact for the employment and learning project officer. The team is located in an Office of Housing property in East Reservoir and will move into the new East Reservoir Neighbourhood House once constructed in mid 2009.

There will be significant housing redevelopments and upgrades in East Reservoir as part of the 8 year initiative. One is well underway on the corner of Cheddar and McMahon Road as well as one planned for the corner of Strathmerton Street and Boldrewood Parade. Many small upgrades and immediate improvements to housing stock have already taken place.

The decision to cut short the funding placed the three funded positions and the housing upgrades all at risk and has placed an air of uncertainty over the project in recent months.

CORE ISSUES

The key achievements of the initiative to date include: being a key partner and funder of the East Reservoir Neighbourhood House, the employment of at least 10 local residents as a result of an office skills training course at Council, the training of a pool of casual drivers for Council garbage trucks, the development of an open space master plan of the whole precinct, funding for a community garden as well as the upgrade of the kitchen at Reservoir Senior Citizens Centre. Considerable community consultation has taken place through the project with over 300 residents formally surveyed as well as quarterly events for local families, the development of various health and wellbeing programs for children, youth and other adults.

Due to the success of the project and the high level of involvement of the local community there was significant unrest in the community regarding the decision to cut short the program 2 years. As a result the Neighbourhood Renewal Steering committee and local partners embarked on a campaign to save the funding. Campaign activities included:

- Two strategy meetings with Steering Committee members and the local community.
- Media articles.
- Letters to the Minister of Housing and Local Government requesting the funding be reinstated.
- Letters to local members of Parliament encouraging them to convey their concerns to the Minister.
- Letters to Darebin Community Health and Melbourne Citymission encouraging them to convey their concerns to the Minister.
- Letters to PRACE and the Darebin Best Start partnership encouraging them to convey their concerns to the Minister.
- Letter to residents in the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal area informing them of the reduced funding.
- Letters sent to the Minister from at least 10 local residents.
- Petition of 300 signatures gathered with a deadline of 1 October to be sent.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Not Applicable

Social Inclusion and Diversity

A key deliverable of Neighbourhood Renewal is community development outcomes with those groups who do not traditionally engage in community life. These groups include those people who experience economic disadvantage, may have poor educational attainment as well as be newly arrived to our community or experience a disability. East Reservoir was selected as a site for Neighbourhood Renewal as it scores highly on all of these indicators.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FUTURE ACTIONS

Letter of commendation to East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Committee
Redraft Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Human Services

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Neighbourhood Renewal Council Report November 2006
Neighbourhood Renewal Council Report November 2007
Neighbourhood Renewal Council Report funding concerns May 2009

The Chairperson, Cr. Fontana drew attention to the revised report which had been circulated to Councillors.

8.12**NUCLEAR FREE STANCE FOR DAREBIN****MINUTE NO. 342****AUTHOR:** Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett**MANAGER:** General Manager Environment and Amenity - Libby Hynes**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within Current Budget**SUMMARY:**

This report outlines the environmental impacts of uranium mining, export, use of nuclear materials including for power and weapons and waste disposal. It considers the implications of Darebin taking a Nuclear Free position and recommends advocacy on this issue.

This report was considered at the Council meeting on 7 September 2009 and deferred to enable further information and discussion. The report has been updated.

CONSULTATION:

City of Yarra, Mayors for Peace, Beyond Nuclear Initiative.

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) Council adopt a Nuclear Free position including:
 - a) Opposition to nuclear power and support for renewable energy
 - b) Advocating a return to a 'no new mines' policy and ban of in situ leachate mining technique and a phase out of all uranium mining and export.
 - c) Requesting a review of safeguards and checks regarding uranium export agreements and
 - d) Urging an immediate and unconditional repeal of the *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act*
- (2) Council reaffirm its commitment to the Mayors for Peace organisation
- (3) Council write to the State and Federal Energy and Environment Ministers and Local Members of Parliament informing them of Council's resolution.

MOTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT:

- (1) Council adopt a Nuclear Free position including:
 - a) Opposition to nuclear power and support for renewable energy
 - b) Advocating a return to a 'no new mines' policy and ban of in situ leachate mining technique and a phase out of all uranium mining and export.
 - c) Requesting a review of safeguards and checks regarding uranium export agreements and
 - d) Urging an immediate and unconditional repeal of the *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act*
- (2) Council reaffirm its commitment to the Mayors for Peace organisation
- (3) Council write to the State and Federal Energy and Environment Ministers and Local Members of Parliament informing them of Council's resolution.

CR. LAURENCE SUPPORTED BY CR. TSITAS PROPOSED TO THE MOVER AND SECONDER OF THE MOTION A VARIATION TO DELETE ITEMS 1B AND 1D FROM THE MOTION

THE PROPOSED VARIATION WAS ACCEPTED BY THE MOVER AND SECONDER OF THE MOTION AND THE CHAIRPERSON.

THE MOTION AS VARIED WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT:

- (1) Council adopt a Nuclear Free position including:
 - a) Opposition to nuclear power and support for renewable energy
 - b) Requesting a review of safeguards and checks regarding uranium export agreements.
- (2) Council reaffirm its commitment to the Mayors for Peace organisation.

- (3) Council write to the State and Federal Energy and Environment Ministers and Local Members of Parliament informing them of Council's resolution.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting on 18 May 2009 Council resolved:

THAT officers prepare a report exploring the establishment of the Darebin municipality as a Nuclear Free Zone. The term 'Nuclear Free Zone' would indicate that Council is opposed to:

- *Nuclear weapons;*
- *Uranium mining;*
- *Nuclear power; and*
- *The storage and transportation of nuclear waste.*

Council would be not opposed to the responsible use, transportation, storage or disposal of radioactive substances for bio-medical and limited technological purposes, as it believes that the benefits to the users out-weigh the risk to the community at large.

Officers should also recommend a communication strategy to local State and Federal members, as well as State and Federal Energy and Environment Ministers as well as a strategy for public consultation on this issue.

About the Nuclear Industry and its Environmental and Social Impacts

The nuclear industry consists primarily of:

- Mining of radioactive materials of which uranium is the most common
- Transport including export of radioactive materials
- Processing and use of materials for purposes including medicine, generation of power and production of weapons
- Disposal and ongoing waste management.

There are a number of significant environmental and social issues and risks associated with the nuclear industry and these are summarised below.

Uranium mining

- Risk of contamination and health impacts on workers
- Contamination risks for water ways, habitat and surrounding communities

Australia holds 30-40% of the worlds known conventional uranium reserves and is an exporter of uranium. Australia's uranium mines do not have a spotless track record.

A 2003 report by the Senate References and Legislation Committee found "a pattern of under-performance and non-compliance" in the uranium mining industry, it identified "many gaps in knowledge and found an absence of reliable data on which to measure the extent of contamination or its impact on the environment", and it concluded that changes were necessary "in order to protect the environment and its inhabitants from serious or irreversible damage".

In March 2004 at the Ranger uranium mine in the Northern Territory 150 workers were exposed to drinking water containing uranium levels 400 times greater than the Australian safety standard. Mining company ERA was fined \$150,000 for breaching operating conditions.

Export of Uranium

- Proliferation of nuclear weapons including weapons of mass destruction.

The link between 'peaceful' nuclear programs and weapons proliferation has been consistently demonstrated. Al Gore has commented that "*for eight years in the White House, every weapons-proliferation problem we dealt with was connected to a civilian reactor program.*"

The uranium industry claim that the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) 'ensures' that Australian nuclear materials (primarily uranium and its by-products) will not be used in nuclear weapons. However, only a fraction of eligible nuclear facilities and stockpiles are actually inspected by the IAEA. According to the Director-General of the IAEA, Dr Mohamed El Baradei, the IAEA's basic rights of inspection are "fairly limited", the safeguards system suffers from "vulnerabilities" and "clearly needs reinforcement", and it runs on a "shoestring budget ... comparable to a local police department."

There are also problems with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Australia currently exports only to signatories of the agreement but this includes the United States, France, the United Kingdom and China (all of which are failing to fulfil their NPT disarmament obligations).

Although Australia is the second largest uranium exporting country after Canada, uranium exports of A\$573 million in 2005 accounted for less than one third of one percent of Australia's export income.

Nuclear Power

- Risks of nuclear accidents and consequential health and environmental impacts
- Nuclear power plants consume large amounts of water – 20-83% more than coal-fired plants which are already water intensive. Water consumption for nuclear reactors is typically 35-65 million litres per day.
- Water outflows from nuclear plants expel relatively warm water which can have adverse local impacts in bays and gulfs, as can heavy metal and salt pollutants.

The use of nuclear power is sometimes proposed as an alternative to common forms of energy productions such as coal fired power stations as a means for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and is promoted as a 'reliable' source of base load power in contrast to renewable energy.

Australia's industry-funded Uranium Information Centre (UIC) claims that a doubling of nuclear power across the world would reduce greenhouse emissions from the power sector by 25%. But the figure of 25% falls to just 4–7.5% if considering the impact on total global emissions rather than just the power sector. And it fails to take into account the other environmental impacts and the time delay required to commission new reactors.

Nuclear power is three times more greenhouse intensive than wind power. Focussing on and supporting renewable energy production is a much more responsible option and can form a significant

proportion of Australia's future energy needs. Some renewable energy technologies such as biofuels and geothermal (hot rock) power do provide base load and wind systems spread over an appropriate area or solar with use of battery storage can also provide base load.

Waste Disposal and Management

- A typical power reactor produces 25-30 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel annually
- There are no 'safe' disposal options over the long radioactive life of waste material
- Radioactive material requires careful management for thousands of generations

The Mayors for Peace

The Mayors for Peace is an international organisation led by the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Mayors for Peace was founded in 1982 to promote the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the realization of genuine and lasting world peace. Darebin City Council is recorded as being a member of Mayors for Peace since 1983.

Today, Mayors for Peace is a category II international non-governmental organisation accredited by the United Nations with 3,104 member cities in 134 countries and regions. There is no membership fee.

CORE ISSUES

Australian Governments Positions on the Nuclear Industry

Mining: Australia currently has three uranium mines operating (Ranger, Olympic Dam and Beverly). The current Australian Government has abandoned the Labor Party's former 'Three Mines Policy' (originally Ranger, Olympic Dam and Narbalek which has now closed) introduced when Labor was in government in 1984 and discarded by the Coalition Government in 1996. Two additional mines have now been approved, Honeymoon and more recently the Four Miles mine approved by Minister Garret in July of this year.

Export: Labor has overturned a former Howard government deal to sell uranium to India because it's not a member of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). And an in-principle agreement by the coalition to sell uranium to Russia, which is a signatory to the NPT, has been put on hold while the Rudd government considers the recommendations of a treaty committee report.

Nuclear Power: The Australian Labor Party continues to state that it will not pursue nuclear power plants in Australia.

Waste: Before the federal election there was a clear commitment that a Labor government would repeal the *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act* (CRWMA 2005/06) adopted under the Howard government. This Act opened the way for a Nuclear Waste Facility in the Northern Territory without the need for approval from the Traditional Owners.

In March 2007, Federal Labor also committed to:

- Legislate to restore transparency, accountability and procedural fairness including the right of access to appeal mechanisms in any decisions in relation the sighting of any nuclear waste facilities.

- Ensure that any proposal for the siting of a nuclear waste facility on Aboriginal Land in the Northern Territory would adhere to the requirements that exist under the Aboriginal Land Rights, Northern Territory Act (ALRA).

The repeal of the CRWMA legislation has not yet occurred. Land holders and Traditional Owners across four targeted sites in the Northern Territory continue to live with uncertainty about the future of their land.

What Nuclear Free means for Darebin

None of the key nuclear industry activities identified in the Background section above (ie mining, transport, nuclear processing, nuclear power plants, waste disposal) occur in Darebin, nor is Darebin an appropriate area for establishing these activities.

Establishing a 'Nuclear Free' position would primarily be for advocacy purposes and would be a position against:

- Nuclear weapons;
- Uranium mining;
- Nuclear power; and
- The storage and transportation of nuclear waste.

Options for Advocacy

Due to complexities in company structures and supply chains it is not practical for Darebin to pursue a stance of boycotting or avoiding purchasing from companies who are involved in the nuclear industry.

The Mayors for Peace provides ongoing advocacy and collaboration opportunities for promoting peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Darebin Council could write to the State and Federal Environment and Energy Ministers and Local Members of Parliament outlining:

- Darebin's Nuclear Free position and membership of Mayors for Peace
- Opposition to nuclear power and support for renewable energy
- Advocating a return to a 'no new mines' policy and ban of in situ leachate mining technique (that injects corrosive chemicals into groundwater bores in a uranium deposit) and a phase out of all uranium mining and export.
- Requesting a review of safeguards and checks regarding uranium export agreements
- Urging an immediate and unconditional repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act
- Following full repeal of the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005 the Government should undertake a Public Inquiry under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act into management of nuclear and radioactive waste in Australia. This inquiry should be based on the foundation principles of non-imposition of radioactive waste transport and dumping, and respect for Traditional Owners' rights and interests.

Alternative Option - Stance on Nuclear Weapons only

Council could consider this issue as beyond the local jurisdiction and limit their political stance on this issue in recognition of the Australian Government's role. A possible option in this regard would be to reaffirm membership and commitment to the Mayors for Peace and take a position against nuclear weapons without declaring a full 'Nuclear Free' position and advocating for a ban on uranium mining, nuclear power and the storage and transport of nuclear waste.

Communications Strategy

Council's resolution of 18 May 2009 also asked for a communications strategy in terms of communicating with State and Federal Members of Parliament and consultation with the community.

While nuclear power is a significant environmental issue, Darebin Council's potential to influence the outcome of Australia's current and future nuclear position is quite limited. A broad ranging consultation program and communication strategy would divert staff resources from our current programs and identified priorities such as Climate Change where Council can achieve on ground action. It is therefore recommended that:

- If Council endorses a Nuclear Free position that this occur on a leadership basis without community consultation
- That a letter be prepared to the State and Federal Energy and Environment Ministers and Local Members of Parliament informing them of Council's resolution
- That environmental organisations and networks such as the Beyond Nuclear Initiative and the Friends of the Earth be notified of Darebin's Nuclear Free position
- That a media release be circulated to the media and posted on the Darebin website.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

The Environmental Impacts of the Nuclear Industry are outlined in the Background section of this Paper.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There are no direct social implications of a nuclear free advocacy stance in Darebin although the position supports the rights and safety of people and environments elsewhere. This includes Aboriginal Traditional Owners in the Northern Territory that continue to be threatened by the site proposals for a Nuclear Waste Facility until the *Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Act 2005* is fully repealed.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within current budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Communication of the Council's decision in line with this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Environment Policy

Cr. S. Tsitas left the meeting at commencement of this item – 8.50pm.

8.13 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW

MINUTE NO. 343

AUTHOR: Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett

MANAGER: General Manager Environment and Amenity - Libby Hynes

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Within Current Budget

SUMMARY:

This report provides an update on year two of implementation of Darebin's Climate Change Action Plan for Council Operations. In 2008/2009 Council achieved its 2010 reduction target of reducing emissions by 20% on 1995 levels. Emissions in 2008/2009 were reduced a further 717 tonnes or 5% compared to 2007/2008. The two primary actions for achieving the reduction target are the purchase of GreenPower for all Council owned and managed buildings and the energy efficiency program. The Energy efficiency program has been very successful in achieving reductions in energy use of between 10 - 16% in most of Council's Top 11 buildings with large reductions at the Darebin Civic Centre (Preston) (28%) and the Reservoir Depot (42%). The program has also saved more than \$180,000 on energy bills in 2008/09 compared to the baseline year.

CONSULTATION:

Internal consultation with the Greenhouse Steering Group and Facility Managers.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. T. Laurence

THAT Council:

- (1) Note this progress report on the Climate Change Action Plan.
- (2) Continue to implement the Climate Change Action Plan including:
 - (a) Purchase of 100% GreenPower for all Council owned and managed buildings
 - (b) Implementation of the Energy Efficiency Program for the Top 11 sites
 - (c) Investigation of cogeneration at the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre
 - (d) Planning for commencement of a staged roll-out of energy efficient T5 lights in 2010/2011

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting on 4 June 2007 Council resolved to:

Adopt the *Darebin City Council Climate Change Action Plan*, for Council's own operations, which includes the following key actions and commitments:

- (1) Adopts a Carbon Neutral target for Council operations by 2020.
- (2) Significantly increases the purchase of GreenPower to cover electricity use from the Darebin Municipal office site in 2007/2008 and extending this GreenPower purchase in 2008/2009 to cover electricity use from all Council facilities and achieve 2010 Greenhouse emission reduction target.
- (3) Continues and expands Council's energy efficiency program.
- (4) Commits to designing new Council facilities for carbon neutrality.
- (5) Continues Council advocacy and community engagement on Climate Change.

This report updates Council on the progress of the Climate Change Action Plan following the second year of implementation.

CORE ISSUES

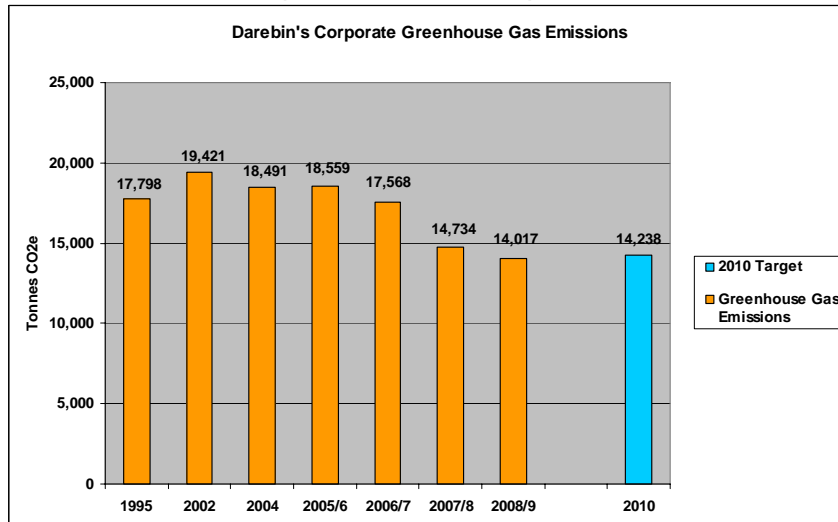
The implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan is overseen by the Greenhouse Steering Group which has high level representation from those Departments and Branches across the organisation where most emissions are generated. The group meets on a six weekly basis and consists of: General Manager Community Assets and Infrastructure, General Manager City Services, General Manager Corporate Services, Manager, Major Projects, General Manager Environment and Amenity, Environmental Strategy Coordinator and the Climate Change Action Officer.

Overall Outcomes

Through the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan, Council has achieved the 2010 reduction target in 2008/09 - a 20% reduction on 1995 greenhouse emission levels. In August of this year, Darebin won the National Environs Australia Award for Achievement in Sustainability - Urban and Larger Councils category, for our Climate Change Action, including leadership in our own operations.

Graph 1 below shows the total emissions from Council operations in 2008/09 as 14,017 tonnes reducing emissions beyond our 2010 target by 221 tonnes. The 2008/09 result is a further 717 tonne or 5% reduction from 2007/08 levels. This 717 tonne reduction is equivalent to removing around 170 average Australian cars from the road.

Graph 1 Darebin's Corporate Greenhouse Gas emissions



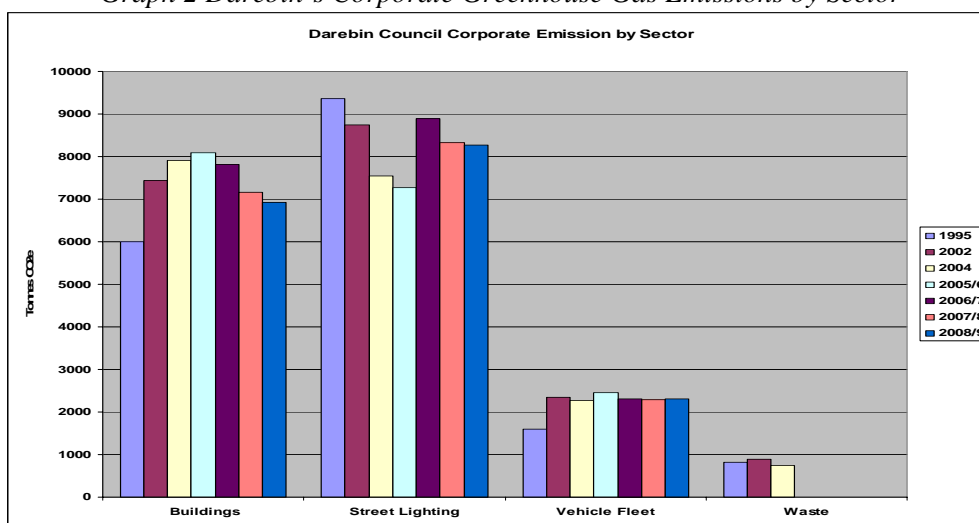
Note that this graph includes estimates for Council's waste emissions for non-Cities for Climate Protection inventory years 2005/06, 2006/07, 2007/08 and 2008/09

The reduction in greenhouse emissions is primarily due to:

- the continuing success of the energy efficiency program in Council's Top 11 energy using buildings which achieved a further reduction of 395 tonnes of savings from electricity use in these sites. Gas use, particularly at the Reservoir Leisure Centre increased quite significantly due to the redevelopment of the site and the extension of services - particularly the hydrotherapy pool. Gas use in the Top 11 buildings increased by a total of 120 tonnes of greenhouse emissions bringing the net savings from the energy efficiency program to 275 tonnes.
- an increased GreenPower purchase of 100% GreenPower for all Council owned and managed buildings (additional savings of 471 tonnes of greenhouse emissions/year)

Graph 2 below shows emissions from each of the four key sectors when the GreenPower purchase is not taken into consideration. The graph indicates that the energy reductions in 2008/09 came from the building sector as a result of the energy efficiency program. While the Top 11 buildings achieved a net reduction of 275 tonnes (as indicated above) overall all buildings decreased by a total of 232 tonnes. This reflects an increase in gas use in the smaller facilities, probably due to the colder than average temperatures in the 2008 winter.

Graph 2 Darebin's Corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector



Greenhouse emissions from street lighting has remained relatively stable in 2007/08 and 2008/09. The opportunity to reduce emissions from this sector is dependent on the large scale replacement of inefficient 80W Mercury Vapour lights with efficient T5s that use one third of the energy. A small number of upgrades to T5s have taken place usually in circumstances where lighting is below required levels and where new installations were needed.

Council's vehicle fleet has remained relatively stable with 2,314 tonnes of emissions in 2008/09 compared to 2,283 tonnes the previous year. Greenhouse savings from upgrades to more energy efficient diesel and LPG vehicles have balanced out increased vehicle kilometres travelled in the heavy vehicle fleet.

At present, there is not a reliable source of data for emissions produced by Council's corporate waste. An estimate for waste emissions has been included in the total emissions.

Verification of Emissions Inventory

In the past, the ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability - Cities for Climate Protection Program has reviewed Council's greenhouse inventories and provided verification of our results. This is no longer possible however as the Australian Government announced in June this year that they would no longer be funding the Cities for Climate Protection program.

A consistent methodology for local government emissions inventories and third party verification of results is therefore currently a service gap for local government. This is an advocacy issue that Council will continue to raise with the Municipal Association of Victorian and Victorian and Australian Governments and through other local government networks.

Council's data collection and management processes have improved significantly over the years, particularly since the appointment of the Environmental Project Officer - Utility Management in the Environmental Strategy Unit. Data for emissions from buildings, street-lighting and fleet are very reliable with further work on standardised and regular waste audits for Councils own waste stream required.

Progress on Key Initiatives

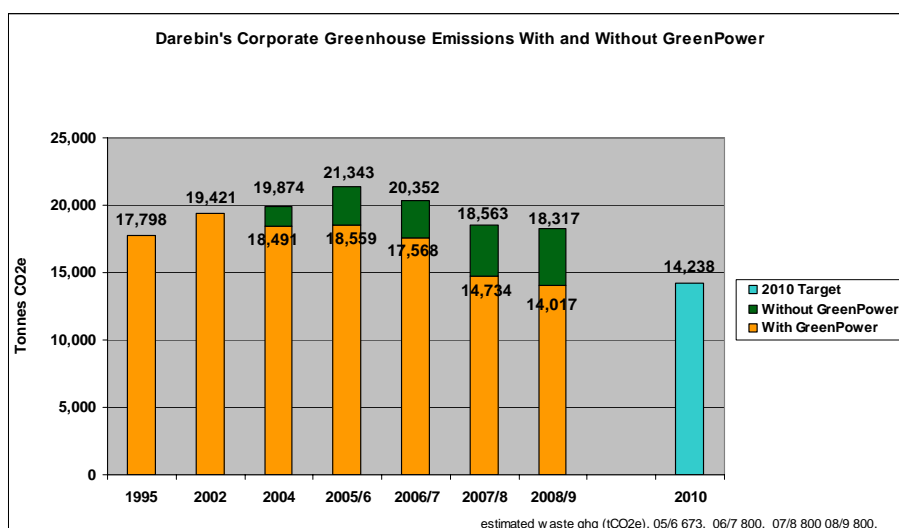
1 *GreenPower purchase*

This year Council expanded its GreenPower purchase to cover 100% GreenPower for all Council owned and managed buildings. This resulted in a net increase of GreenPower purchase of 360 MWh, saving an additional 471 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions compared to 2007/08 when 100% GreenPower was purchased for the Darebin Municipal Centre, the Reservoir Civic Centre and 30% of Darebin's street-lighting use.

The importance of Council's commitment to the purchase of GreenPower is indicated in the graph below which shows that the 2008/09 emissions would be 18,317 tonnes (~4,300 tonnes higher) this year and well above our 2010 target if not for the purchase of GreenPower.

The overall decline in emissions from 2005/06 regardless of the GreenPower contribution is also a very positive trend as this indicates a reducing trend in actual energy use at the same time, during which time service provision has increased.

Graph 3 Darebin's Corporate Greenhouse Emissions showing GreenPower contribution



2 *Energy Efficiency Program*

Council's energy efficiency program in the Top 11 buildings continues to be very successful in achieving further savings demonstrated in bill data compared to 2007/08 and large reductions compared to 2006/07 prior to the implementation of the new program.

Key actions undertaken in 2008/09 include:

- optimisation of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) controls at 7 of the largest sites
- change of thermostat settings for heating and cooling
- installation of new efficient HVAC system at the Reservoir Depot and upgrade of HVAC system at the Preston Library
- Solar Hot Water to service the Darebin Municipal Centre
- A pool blanket for the hydrotherapy pool at Reservoir Leisure Centre

- a wide range of lighting upgrades and installation of occupancy sensor controls and further delamping
- installation of more timers for hot water systems

The graph below (which does not take into consideration the GreenPower purchase) indicates greenhouse emission (and therefore energy use) reductions at 9 of the 11 major sites. Energy use at Reservoir Leisure Centre has increased quite significantly due to the redevelopment at the site (discussed in more detail below). Energy use at Northcote Town Hall was marginally higher in 2008/09 compared to 2006/07 but has decreased since 2007/08. This is a reasonable result correlating to attendances and use of the site. In 2008/09, 115,882 attendances were recorded at Northcote Town Hall compared to 130,569 attendances in 2007/08 and 88,106 attendances in 2006/07.

The table below indicates cost savings based on the difference in electricity and gas usage in 2008/09 compared to the baseline year of 2006/07 based on current electricity and gas tariffs which have increased substantially over the period.

The savings in gas and electricity across all sites excluding Reservoir Leisure Centre has saved Council \$94,566 this year in utility costs compared to 2006/07.

The **Reservoir Leisure Centre (RLC)** has increased emissions due to the redevelopment at the Centre which includes the new hydrotherapy pool, extension of the gymnasium and the sauna - these upgrades have increased electricity and gas use quite significantly resulting in an increase of \$40,700 in utilities costs. This increase of 250 tonnes would have been around twice as high without the ~222 tonnes of savings achieved with the use of pool blankets and other energy efficiency measures at the Centre. The cost savings from the installation of the pool blankets is projected to be saving Council around \$86,000 a year.

If the avoided costs (ie projected savings) from energy efficient measures at Reservoir Leisure Centre are also included overall annual savings arising from the program are estimated at \$180,500 in 2008/09.

Graph 4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Top 11 Energy using Sites

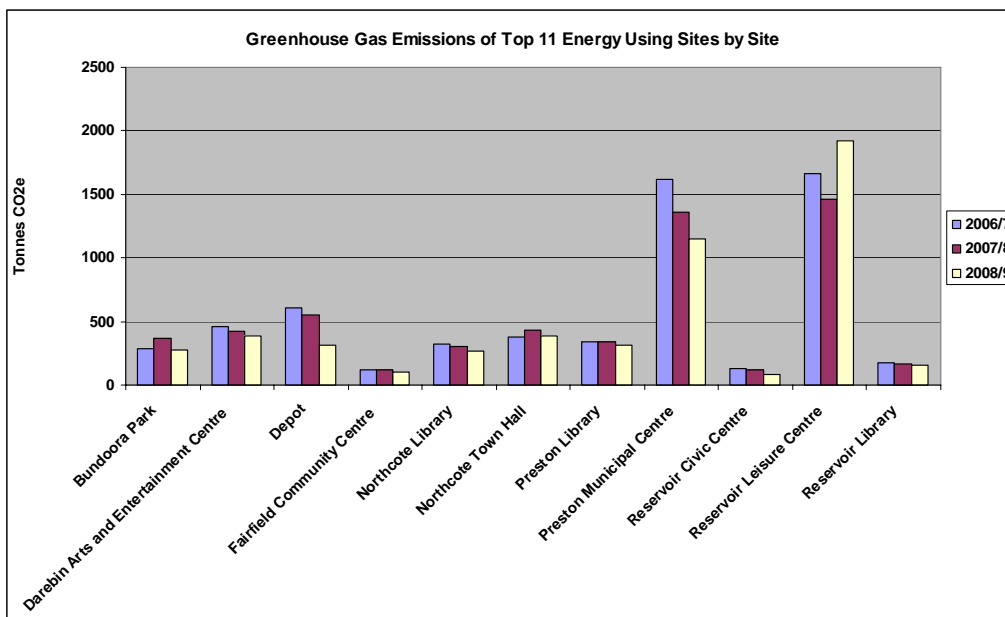


Table 1: Cost Savings for targeted Sites 2008/09 compared to 2006/07:

Facility	Electricity	Gas	Net Difference
Bundoora Park	\$515.30	-\$3,223.38	-\$2,708.08
Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre	\$4,330.26	-\$1,011.62	\$3,318.64
Reservoir Depot	\$22,198.61	\$0.00	\$22,198.61
Fairfield Community Centre	\$1,208.77	\$0.00	\$1,208.77
Northcote Library	\$3,252.87	\$175.28	\$3,428.15
Northcote Town Hall	-\$855.74	-\$2,515.16	-\$3,370.90*
Preston Library	\$219.21	\$7,448.20	\$7,667.41
Darebin Municipal Centre	\$26,914.86	\$32,913.14	\$59,828.00
Reservoir Civic Centre	\$2,900.26	\$356.24	\$3,256.50
Reservoir Library	\$1,332.32	-\$1,593.40	-\$261.08
Total cost savings achieved	\$62,016.74	\$32,549.31	\$94,566.05

*Patronage at the Northcote Town Hall increased by 31% in 2008/09 compared to 2006/07
Cost increases are indicated as negatives and shaded.

The largest reductions in energy consumption and greenhouse emissions from the Top 11 energy using sites have been at the **Darebin Municipal Centre (28% reduction in emissions from 2006/07)** as this is where most of the projects for the energy efficiency program have been focussed including changes to the thermostat settings for heating and cooling. Without these actions, Council's 2008/09 energy bill for the Preston site alone would be \$59,800 higher than in 2006/07 prior to the commencement of the program.

The **Reservoir Depot has achieved a very impressive 42% reduction in emissions** (including the ~30 tonnes of emissions from LPG use for the new efficient mechanics workshop heating system that is not reflected in this graph but is included in fuels use with the vehicle fleet) and savings of more than \$22,000 this year. Key upgrades include the removal of the electric slab heater in 2007/08 and the installation of an efficient heating and cooling system this year.

Emissions were reduced by **30% at Reservoir Civic Centre** due largely to improvements in heating, ventilation and air-conditioning control settings. This work emphasises that building control systems at the Reservoir Civic Centre along with many other facilities were not correctly commissioned and optimised - reflecting a general lack of understanding of these systems amongst HVAC installers and maintenance contractors. This issue will be investigated and addressed for future new facilities through the Accelerating Sustainable Buildings program.

Most of the other sites achieved reductions in the vicinity of 10 - 16% from 2006/07 which is a great result.

In promoting energy efficiency opportunities, Sustainability Victoria commonly cites savings in the order of 20% for most Australian buildings. It is rare, however, for this level of saving to be actually demonstrated in practice. As was Darebin's experience prior to the implementation of the current energy efficiency program, most Councils with energy efficiency programs continue to see a rise in their energy use due to expanding services and demand.

During the year, staff have presented on the success of Darebin's energy efficiency program at the following events:

- Local Government Asset Management and Public Works Engineering Conference
- the MAV's Resource Efficiency Seminar
- the Green Buildings Conference

In addition to implementation of technical improvements, facility managers are also supporting the program through staff awareness, behaviour change and appropriate management practices. The Facilities Maintenance Branch are also pro-active with ensuring works and upgrades are as efficient as possible. This support is vital for the success of the program.

Staff events were held to engage staff and promote awareness of saving energy and to celebrate the purchase of GreenPower. One event was held at the Darebin Municipal Centre to coincide with World Environment Day and the other one at the Reservoir Depot. Both events were well attended and successful. The Environmental Action Teams continue to support the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan through 'Toilet Talk' information flyers and other activities.

3) *Carbon Neutral Council Buildings*

The impact of new facilities and major redevelopments is reflected in the 250 tonne increase in emissions at the Reservoir Leisure Centre due to the redevelopment to upgrade and extend facilities at the Centre.

New buildings need to be designed and fitted out carefully to be energy efficient and environmentally responsible. This will ensure that carbon neutrality through the purchase of GreenPower and offsetting of gas use is as cost effective as possible. Actions taken over the year to support future sustainable development includes:

- Through the Accelerating Sustainable Buildings (ASB) project, funded by the Victorian Government's Sustainability Fund, Darebin is reviewing all the processes involved in developing new facilities and undertaking major redevelopments to ensure that buildings are designed, built and fitted out as environmentally efficiently as possible. This program will include the development of environmental specifications for designers and builders and a new process chart for use by staff.
- Darebin's Sustainable Design Officer and Climate Change Action Officer are involved in reviewing and providing input into the design of new facilities, major upgrades and installation of new HVAC plant
- Expert consultants are also reviewing redevelopments and air conditioning upgrades to ensure good energy efficiency outcomes
- ESD and energy efficiency measures have been successfully incorporated into the design of the East Reservoir Neighbourhood House and learnings from that process are informing the ASB program.

4) *Advocacy and Community Engagement on Climate Change*

Community engagement in 2008/09 largely focussed on the development of the Community Climate Change Action Plan that was adopted by Council on 15 June 2009. Consultation and engagement included:

- the development of the Community Climate Change Action Plan Reference Group
- a series of six focus groups
- the Community Leaders forum and
- four public meetings.

Advocacy on Climate Change has included submissions to:

- the Australian Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Green Paper
- the National Carbon Offset Standard Discussion Paper
- Exposure draft Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Act

- the Inquiry into the Approvals Process for Renewable Energy

And the following additional advocacy actions have also been taken:

- Joint statement with the Alternative Technology Association and other groups opposing the Renewable Energy Certificate Multiplier
- Letter to Planning and Environment Ministers supporting increased energy efficiency measures in buildings.
- A motion, which was successfully endorsed, to the Municipal Association of Victoria's State Assembly regarding the need for all GreenPower purchases to be additional to the National Emissions Target
- A motion, which was successfully endorsed, to the Australian Local Government Association National Assembly also regarding the need for all GreenPower purchases to be additional to the National Emissions Target
- Letter to the Federal Minister for Climate Change and local members of Parliament regarding GreenPower and the need for all purchases to be additional to the National Emissions Target
- Endorsement of 'Plan B' and communication to local members of parliament
- Membership of the Climate Displacement Coalition
- Inclusion of Climate Change advocacy issues in briefing papers for local members of parliament
- Ongoing involvement and advocacy regarding more efficient street lighting.

Council has also participated in Climate Change related submissions from the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and the Municipal Association of Victoria to government.

5) *Other Actions*

Other actions undertaken this year include:

- **Pursuit of Energy Efficient Street-lighting** Street lighting is a priority issue for furthering progress towards Council's 2020 Zero Net Emissions target and to ensure we continued to reduction of emissions each year. Key actions include:
 - participation in a Sustainability Fund program in the SPAusnet area to scope the replacement of 143 of Darebin's 80W Mercury Vapour lights with an energy efficient option suitable for a decorative light fitting. Consultation with residents and contract negotiations are still in progress.
 - Representation on the Victorian Sustainable Public Lighting Action Group and ongoing liaison with distribution businesses and lighting manufacturers. Darebin's Climate Change Action Officer has been nominated to represent Victorian Councils on the MAV's new Customer Innovation Committee which will replace VSPLAG as the key forum for assessing new Sustainable Public Lighting opportunities in collaboration with distribution businesses.
 - Completion of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action's (NAGA) Sustainable Public Lighting Accord One program that was led by Darebin Council and has been instrumental in enabling the installation of energy efficient T5 lights in Victoria. Some local governments will commence bulk roll-outs of T5 lighting this financial year.
 - A further NAGA Sustainability Fund application has been submitted with a proposal to further research LED technologies, opportunities for timer controls and waste management and lighting.

- **Public Lighting** Implementation of energy efficient upgrades identified in the Walk the Talk report for public lighting owned by and metered to Council eg parks, security lighting and car parks have been integrated into the Energy Efficiency program. The Walk the Talk project identified total opportunities within Darebin to reduce 400 tonnes of greenhouse emissions reduction per year with an overall payback of 7.6 years.
- **Participation in the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Actions** including the development of the regional Towards Zero Net Emissions Strategy.
- **Research into more greenhouse efficient fuels** has continued. There are currently no attractive fuel or technology solutions for making significant greenhouse reductions in the fleet. Key opportunities consist of continuing to upgrade to more fuel efficient vehicles and reduced usage. The Fleet Review is a key opportunity for progressing emission reductions in the fleet.
- The **small buildings energy efficiency checklist** has been delayed due to the lack of staff resourcing within the Facilities Maintenance Branch to conduct assessments. Currently a student project group is trialling the use of the checklist in some Council buildings. Resource requirements will be identified to progress implementation in the future.
- Consideration of Policy impacts including 'Environmental Impacts' is now included in Council reports to help inform decision making regarding climate change impacts.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The positive environmental impacts and achievements of implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan are detailed in this report.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The continued purchase of GreenPower and the implementation of the Energy Efficiency program are within this years budget. This years Capital Works budget includes funding for a detailed feasibility study for cogeneration at the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

Planning and advocacy for funding support for the roll-out of energy efficient street lighting continues. It is anticipated that a staged roll-out commence in 2010/11 and this has been referred to the 2010/11 capital works budget for consideration.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Greenhouse emissions from Council operations in 2009/10 are expected to remain relatively stable. While 280 tonnes of emissions savings have been identified through this years energy efficiency program, changes in weather patterns, new facilities and changes in service delivery will impact on emissions.

Continue to implement Darebin's Climate Change Action Plan and reduce emissions in Council operations by:

- Continuing to purchase GreenPower for all Council facilities in 2009/10 with a review in 2010/11 to consider the implications of continuing to purchase GreenPower in light of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme
- Continuation of the energy efficiency program in Council's Top 11 sites in 2009/10 with an estimated reduction of 286 tonnes
- Commence implementation of the replacement of 80W Mercury Vapour lights with energy efficient T5s in a staged roll-out from 2010/11. This is a key initiative in order to achieve the 2020 target and reduce emissions annually.
- Continue to gather data for outsourced assets such as Council facilities managed by other organisations and the recycling contract with a view to reviewing the corporate inventory in 2010/11 to take responsibility for contracted services
- Fleet review to consider and implement options for reducing greenhouse emissions from the vehicle fleet and
- Undertake a detailed feasibility study for cogeneration at the Northcote Aquatic and Leisure Centre

Continue to demonstrate leadership in Climate Change Action by implementing:

- Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan
- Darebin Adaptation Strategy - Climate Change and Peak Oil.
- NAGA Towards Zero Net Emissions Strategy

and continuing to advocate to the Victorian and Australian Government's and other organisations seeking urgent and significant action on Climate Change.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Climate Change Action Plan
Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan

8.14 DAREBIN SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN CLIMATE CHANGE GREEN PAPER

MINUTE NO. 344

AUTHOR: Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett**MANAGER:** General Manager Environment and Amenity - Libby Hynes**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within Current Budget**SUMMARY:**

This report provides an overview of the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper and the draft Darebin submission to the Green Paper.

CONSULTATION:

- The Municipal Association of Victoria
- Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action
- Darebin staff.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. N. Katsis**SECONDED:** Cr. T. Laurence

THAT Council endorse the submission to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper attached as **Appendix A** to this report

CARRIED**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

The Victorian Government has prepared a Green Paper regarding Climate Change. The Paper is available at www.climatechange.vic.gov.au/greenpaper.

The Green Paper considers the role of the Victorian Government on taking action to tackle climate change and its impacts, particularly in light of the proposed National Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS). The document identifies key roles for the Victorian Government as follows:

- Adaptation - managing adaptation issues specific to Victoria's circumstances and jurisdiction
- Industry development - based on Victoria's competitive advantages and opportunities for developing green jobs

- Adjustment - assisting Victorian communities and business adjust to higher energy costs
- Policy - where the State has a specific regulatory role eg primary industries, transport, waste education, environmental protection and planning.

The Green Paper identifies ten long term goals as follows:

Complementing the CPRS - A new world of Opportunities	
Goal 1	Contribute to Global and National Emissions Reductions
Goal 2	Develop a portfolio of energy options for a low carbon future
Adjustment - The Low Carbon Economy	
Goal 3	Help communities and industry to adjust to a carbon price
Goal 4	Capitalise on new opportunities emerging from a carbon price
Adaptation - A New Reality	
Goal 5	Enable Victoria's regions, industries and communities to capture opportunities and adapt to a changing climate
Goal 6	Promote resilience and improve the management of Victoria's natural resources, ecosystems and biodiversity
Goal 7	Manage the risks to Victoria's infrastructure, built environment and communities through good planning and emergency response systems
A Shared Responsibility	
Goal 8	Work in partnership with Victorians to provide the knowledge and information needed to respond effectively to climate change
Goal 9	Help to ensure vulnerable communities are not further disadvantaged as a result of climate change
Goal 10	Take action to reduce emissions across government operations and ensure that climate change is considered in all government decision-making

The Green Paper identifies five Priorities for Action:

- (1) Drive innovation to position Victoria to capitalise on new jobs and skills, new technologies and new markets and accelerate the transition to a new carbon economy
- (2) Support private action to adapt to a changing climate, and undertake adaptation actions on behalf of the Victorian community to protect the environment, key public assets and manage major public risks
- (3) Help vulnerable regions, businesses and communities adjust to a carbon price, particularly the La Trobe Valley
- (4) Promote low emissions energy technologies as the key to Victoria's energy future
- (5) Establish future-focussed transport, planning and building systems to support a low emissions future and accommodate a changed climate

Public submissions are invited on the Green Paper by **Wednesday 30 September**.

Following consideration of public comment, a White Paper which will set out a final position and include new investment, policy and action on climate change will be released late in 2009. A draft Climate Change Bill to complement the policies and actions identified in the White Paper will also be released later this year.

CORE ISSUES

The Green Paper identifies general positions, goals and priorities but does not provide information about proposed investment, policy and action on climate change so there will be no opportunity to make comment on detailed proposals prior to the release of the White Paper. This is a key concern for Darebin and other stakeholders.

Darebin's draft submission is attached - see **Appendix A**. The draft Darebin submission aims to:

- Register concern regarding the lack of policy and program proposals included in the Green Paper therefore reducing consultation opportunity regarding real proposals
- Emphasise the need for broad and urgent action
- Emphasise the need for consistency and due consideration of climate change action across ALL government decision making and action
- Make specific recommendations on Darebin advocacy issues including: GreenPower and voluntary actions; supporting local and large scale renewable energy; sustainable transport; waste; clearing of vegetation and logging of native forests; community support and the unique role of local governments
- Provide information on Darebin's leadership stance on Climate Change

Other Submissions

The Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) is preparing a submission to the Green Paper and Darebin staff have attended an MAV consultation session to provide input into the draft. Darebin's draft Submission has also been forwarded to the MAV for consideration.

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action is also preparing a submission to the Green Paper and Darebin also contributed to this process.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Climate Change is a critical environmental issue that needs urgent and broad scale action. The draft submission to the Victorian Climate Change Green Paper seeks to emphasise this.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The impacts of climate change and resulting increases in energy prices will impact on low income and vulnerable people in Darebin and across the world. The submission aims to highlight the need to support low income and vulnerable members of the Victorian community, culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Victoria and to acknowledge and support climate refugees.

Other

The draft submission also relates recommendations around public transport, urban development, urban form and food security that are consistent with Council strategies and advocacy positions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FUTURE ACTIONS

Darebin's submission to be lodged prior to 30 September.

Darebin staff will seek a meeting with senior Department of Sustainability and Environment staff to discuss the submission.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Climate Change Action Plan
Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan
Draft Darebin Adaptation Strategy - Climate Change and Peak Oil

8.15 DRAFT CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEAK OIL ADAPTATION PLAN - RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**MINUTE NO. 345****AUTHOR: General Manager Environment and Amenity - Libby Hynes****MANAGER: Chief Executive Officer - Michael Ulbrick****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Outlined in the report****SUMMARY:**

This report outlines the process undertaken to develop the draft Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan (the Plan) and the key features of the Plan.

Council services and communities will be affected by climate change and peak oil. Extreme weather events, storms, fire and flood will impact on health, buildings and infrastructure. Ongoing water scarcity will affect gardens, recreation facilities and open space and impact on infrastructure including foundations and pipes. Peak oil will affect petrol dependent services, exacerbate fuel poverty and affect the cost of products dependent on petro-chemicals including food, asphalt, waste bins, playground equipment, vaccines, herbicides and fertilizers. Social impacts are expected to arise from economic, health and connectivity changes.

The aim of the Plan is for Council to mitigate the risks of climate change and peak oil and adapt to the impacts within Council operations and our community support services. Over 100 actions have been developed and prioritised within the draft. The Plan focuses on Council responsibilities but recognises where support can be provided to the community as well as areas of advocacy and cooperation for other levels of government.

The development of this plan puts Council at the forefront of the industry in identifying and planning for risks in relation to both Climate Change and Peak Oil.

CONSULTATION:

As outlined in the report, the draft Climate Change and Adaptation Action Plan has included input from the following consultative processes to date:

- Series of internal workshops to identify, analyse and evaluate risks
- Circulation of a draft Plan to key stakeholders including: Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG), Darebin Health Committee Members, Transition Darebin Steering Committee, Neighboring Councils, MAV, VLGA, Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Trader Groups, Neighborhood Houses, Transport and Emergency Services Providers, Latrobe and NMIT, Local Members of Parliament and people within the industry who had expressed interest during the process.
- Presentation and briefings to: Executive Management Team, Council, Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee, Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG) and Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA)

The report proposes that the draft Plan be endorsed for public comment. Consultation will include advertising, inclusion on Council's webpage and usual Council networks as well as a public meeting in October 2009. The Plan is largely an internal document however there are important linkages and community communication issues noted.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT:

- (1) Council endorse the draft Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report for release for public comment.
- (2) Council receive a further report in November 2009 following public consultation on the draft Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting on 2 June 2008 Council resolved to:

- (1) *Consult and engage with the Darebin community to develop a Community Climate Change Action Plan*
- (2) *Develop an Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change and Peak Oil.*

The Community Climate Change Action Plan (CCCAP) was adopted by Council on June 15, 2009. This plan looks at the reduction of greenhouse emissions within the Darebin community (commonly referred to as mitigation) and has set a community target of zero net emissions by 2020. Adaptation is simply about adjusting to change. It is commonly stated that mitigation is about avoiding the unmanageable and adaptation is about managing the unavoidable. There is also some overlap between mitigation and adaptation. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels both reduces greenhouse gas emissions and builds resilience and adaptation to increasing energy costs.

Climate change and peak oil are serious issues that will have significant ramifications for local governments. The scientific community agrees that both phenomena exist, although there are uncertainties associated with the timing of the events. While there is strong community and political awareness of climate change, the issue of peak oil is less well known. "Peak oil" refers to the time when global oil production peaks and then starts to decline. After peak oil, petroleum products will become more expensive as demand continues to outstrip supply. There is growing expert consensus that peak oil will happen soon, possibly by 2010, with some claiming that the peak has already occurred. Most agree that immediate planning is required to ensure effective societal transition.

Although both issues present significant challenges in their own right, they are not mutually exclusive. Potentially they will both compete for management resources and present opportunities for combined adaptation. The aim of the draft Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan is for Council to mitigate risks and adapt to the impacts within Council operations and our community support services.

CORE ISSUES

Council operations and services will be affected by climate change and peak oil. Extreme weather events, storms, fire and flood will impact on buildings and infrastructure. Ongoing drought conditions will affect recreation facilities and open space and impact on infrastructure including foundations and pipes. Peak oil will affect petrol dependent services including waste collection, street cleansing, vehicle fleet, meals delivery and home care, road and footpath construction and maintenance and parks maintenance. It will also affect the cost of products dependent on petro-chemicals including asphalt, waste bins, playground equipment, vaccines, herbicides and fertilizers.

Climate change will affect the community with heat stress, flooding, fuel poverty and other economic impacts. Peak oil will affect community transportation, food security (cost and supply), health and safety, economic pressures and housing affordability. Social impacts are expected to arise from economic and health changes as well as potential social dislocation due to limited transport.

This will, in turn, affect the support services required of Council to meet escalating community needs. *Climate Risk Pty Ltd* were engaged to prepare the Plan through workshops and feedback from Darebin staff with some additional external input.

Transitioning to a lower energy future can also potentially provide many positives for Council and the community including reduced costs and better health outcomes. These benefits will be explored and promoted through the Plan implementation.

The draft Plan attached as **Appendix A** has been developed for consultation with the broader community. The draft Plan includes the following sections:

- Executive summary outlining proposed actions
- Background – climate change
- Background – peak oil
- Importance of local scale response
- Methodology and process
- Adaptation Plan
- Adaptation Actions Local Government
 - Council services
 - Emergency services
 - Waste collection
 - Infrastructure
 - Planning
 - Organisational knowledge and capacity
- Adaptation Actions Community
- Adaptation Actions Business, Economics and Jobs
- Adaptation Actions Environment

- Implementation and KPIs
- Appendices

Over 100 actions have been developed in the plan in response to the identified risks. These have been allocated to immediate priority (commenced within the next 2 years), medium priority (commenced by 2013) and long term actions (commenced by 2015).

A number of current Council strategies and programs already make a positive contribution to addressing the impacts of climate change and peak oil, particularly around conserving water, reducing dependence on private car transport and promoting food security. These programs include: the Climate Change Action Plan, Community Climate Change Action Plan, Sustainable Water Strategy, Darebin Transport Strategy and associated Green Travel programs and the Darebin and Banyule Good Food Alliance. These are identified within the actions as continuing work.

Delivery of the plan relies on strong collaboration both within Council and with other organisations and governments. Significant internal consultation including workshops and review has occurred to develop the Plan. A draft Plan was then circulated to key stakeholders as detailed in the consultation section above. Feedback from this consultation has been reflected in the attached draft.

Two key emerging issues that have arisen during the development of this plan include the development of a Heatwave Plan and adoption of the *Oil Depletion Protocol*.

Council has recently received \$25,000 funding from Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop strategies and policies for the community and Council to enhance responsiveness and preparation for heatwave events. Work on the Heatwave Plan has commenced and is scheduled to be completed in November this year. The project aims to reduce Council and community harm associated with extreme heat events in Darebin and will operate within the framework of the Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan, the Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan and structures of Emergency Management and Relief.

Adopting the *Oil Depletion Protocol* requires commitment to reduce oil by the world depletion rate, which is currently estimated at approximately 2.6% per year. This looks to decrease dependence on oil as a scarce resource as well as making the organisation more resilient to oil price increases. The major direct uses of oil organisationally are within Council's fleet, private vehicle use for the delivery of council services (home care) and road construction (asphalt).

It is estimated that Darebin uses approximately 940,000 litres of oil in its own fleet (light and heavy combined); 525,000 litres of oil through asphalt and 61,000 litres of oil through home carer kilometers annually. Further work will need to be undertaken to examine how 2.6% yearly reductions can be implemented and likely implications before formal adoption. Some councils, notably Maribyrnong within metropolitan Melbourne, have already adopted this protocol as part of a Peak Oil Policy. There are financial and environmental implications for alternatives such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), biodiesel etc and reduction in usage as well as mode shifting are the best solutions.

There is significant interest and already work has commenced within our community on "transition towns" with the creation of *Transition Darebin*. This is a global community driven venture looking at creating community resilience to the significant changes that arise from climate change and peak oil. It looks to create awareness, build connectivities and eventually promote development of a community "Energy Descent Action Plan". This movement started in Kinsale, Ireland, was expanded to Totnes (UK) where key proponents are now based and "Transition Towns" have sprung up in communities all around the world. This is predominantly a community driven initiative and the draft Adaptation Plan recommends that Council lend support to this community led action. Additionally a working group is currently auspiced by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) which is looking at local government's role in transition towns and community engagement. Darebin is represented on the

working group. An alert was recently sent to all Victorian Councils from this group notifying councils of the implications and actions related to climate change and peak oil and the need for robust planning around these issues.

The Plan will require continual review as information and forecasting on these issues are constantly in flux. Implementation is proposed to be facilitated via an internal steering committee with a yearly review and report to Council on progress.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Implementation of the Adaptation Plan will assist Darebin to adapt to the impacts of climate change and peak oil. Implementation of the Adaptation Plan will not have any negative environmental impacts.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Adaptation Plan identifies social impacts and vulnerable groups. The draft Plan has linkages with the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan. Communication plans developed as part of the plan's implementation will be inclusive of CALD communities.

Other

Implementation of the proposed actions is consistent with the current Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement. The proposed transport related actions are consistent with Darebin's Transport Strategy which seeks to promote sustainable transport and reduce dependence on private car transport.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Climate Change and Peak Oil impacts are expected to have significant effects on forthcoming budgets. For example Council already spends over \$1 Million on fleet fuel and price increases are felt directly as well as through asphalt and other product costs. The MAV predicts that the introduction of the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme CPRS will increase Council expenses by 2% using a permit price of \$25 per tonne (although prices are expected to be capped to \$10 in the first year). Major cost impacts will be felt in infrastructure, waste, energy and insurance costs. These impacts will be felt across the community.

Many of the actions within the Plan are already being implemented and will require minimal additional resourcing, however a number of actions will require additional funding and these will be developed as future budget proposals. Funding will also be sought through Government funding programs.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The following actions will be taken after the Plan is endorsed for Public Consultation:

- promotion of the Plan, and opportunity to comment via Council networks, advertisement and website
- a public meeting will be held in October
- Council to consider adoption of the Adaptation Plan at the Council meeting November 2009.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Environment Policy

Darebin Climate Change Action Plan

Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan

Draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan

Darebin Transport Strategy

Cr. Tsitas returned to the meeting during discussion of this item – 8.55pm.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS**10.1 BRIMBANK CITY COUNCIL****MINUTE NO. 346****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

THAT Council write to the Minister for Local Government expressing Council's concern about the recent handling of the Brimbank City Council affair, particularly the fact that a new Council will not be elected until November 2012.

CARRIED**10.2 PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FOOD CHOICES****MINUTE NO. 347****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

THAT Council officers prepare a report detailing options and implications for Council to show support for and promote sustainable food choices to the community.

CARRIED

10.3 ACCESS FOR RECYCLING TRUCKS TO MINISTRY OF HOUSING LAND

MINUTE NO. 348

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. T. Laurence

THAT Council investigate whether it is possible for recycling service trucks to access Ministry of Housing land to collect recyclables to assist aged and disabled residents in Darebin.

CARRIED

10.4 PERMANENT RESIDENCY FEES

MINUTE NO. 349

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT Darebin Council write to the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship the Hon. Chris Evans regarding recent increases in Australia's Permanent Residency fees urging the Federal Government to ensure that this revenue is directed to migrant and settlement services.

CARRIED

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

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

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

- 11.1 Extension of the Provision of Meals Service Contract by Hobsons Bay City Council Contract CT 0500

CARRIED

The Council meeting was closed to members of the public at 9.10pm.

The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 11.1 (Extension of the Provision of Meals Service Contract by Hobsons Bay City Council Contract CT 0500), which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 17 September 2009 with the Council Agenda Paper.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

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 9.14pm.

CONFIDENTIAL**11.1 EXTENSION OF THE PROVISION OF MEALS SERVICE
CONTRACT BY HOBSONS BAY CITY COUNCIL
CONTRACT CT 0500****MINUTE NO. 350****AUTHOR: Manager Aged and Disability Services – Deb Warren****MANAGER: General Manager Communities and Culture – Jan Black****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: The total anticipated amount to be spent on the purchase of meals from the supplier is \$1,533,955 in 2009/2010. This has been included and approved by Council in the 2009/2010 budget.****SUMMARY:**

Hobsons Bay City Council has provided the meals production service for Darebin City Council since 1 October 1999. The current meals provision contract with Hobsons Bay City Council will conclude on 30 September 2009 and allows for an extension for up to five years at Darebin's option.

Council has previously committed to the partnership with 14 other councils to establish a regional approach to the production and supply of meals for its Meals Service. This initiative commenced in 2004. The supplier of the regional meals will be RFK Pty Ltd (trading as Community Chef) and it is anticipated that Community Chef will be operational by December 2010.

This report recommends that Council extend the current contract with Hobsons Bay City Council for the provision of meals for a period of 18 months (1 October 2009 to 31 March 2011) with allowance for the contract end date to be varied by mutual agreement of both parties when the Regional Food Services Kitchen RFK Pty Ltd (trading as Community Chef) is operational.

CONSULTATION

Bruce Dobson, General Manager Corporate Services

Suzanne Keil, Coordinator Food Services and Community Transport

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) The contract with Hobsons Bay City Council, CT 0500 Provision of Meals Service, be extended based on the pricing schedule attached as **Appendix A** to this report, for the period from 1 October 2009 to 31 March 2011, or earlier by mutual agreement of both parties when the Regional Food Services Kitchen, RFK Pty Ltd (trading as Community Chef), is operational.*
- (2) The General Manager Communities and Culture be authorised to finalise the contract documentation.*

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

CARRIED

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Council meeting closed at 9.15pm.