



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

MONDAY, 3 AUGUST 2009

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2009

Table of Contents

Item Number	Page Number
1. PRESENT.....	1
2. APOLOGIES	1
3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.....	1
4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS	2
5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS	3
5.1 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG.....	3
5.2 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY	3
5.3 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO.....	3
5.4 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN.....	3
5.5 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS	4
5.6 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE.....	4
5.7 REPORT OF CR. VINCE FONTANA	4
5.8 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSIS.....	4
5.9 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. DIANA ASMAR.....	5
6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	5
7. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS.....	6
7.1 RESPONSE TO PUBLIC DRINKING IN EDWARDES STREET RESERVOIR AND CRAMER STREET PRESTON	6
7.2 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY FRAMEWORK, ANNUAL REPORT	17
7.3 DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2006 - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT AND DRAFT DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2009-2013.....	22
7.4 DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA.....	27
7.5 "STEPS TO IMPROVEMENT" – STATUS OF FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE PROGRAM....	31
7.6 MERRI CREEK AND ENVIRONS STRATEGY.....	36
7.7 TRAFFIC SPEEDS – GILBERT ROAD PRESTON	41
7.8 TRANSPORT ISSUES ON ROADS NEXT TO RESERVOIR VIEWS PRIMARY SCHOOL ...	45
7.9 RELOCATION OF TRAM STOP – PLENTY ROAD PRESTON.....	50
7.10 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND ‘GENERAL BUSINESS’ ITEMS OUTSTANDING ..	54
8. URGENT BUSINESS.....	56
9. GENERAL BUSINESS	56
9.1 CHANNEL 31 – DIGITAL BROADCASTING	56

Table of Contents

Item Number		Page Number
10.	CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL	57
10.1	TENDER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MANSFIELD STREET, NORTHCOTE – CT 0922	58
10.2	TENDER (CT 0691) – ANNUAL SUPPLY OF MINOR CIVIL WORKS 2008-2011	60
11.	CLOSE OF MEETING	62

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 3 AUGUST 2009**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.01 P.M.

1. PRESENT

Councillors

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

Council Officers

Michael Ulbrick – Chief Executive Officer
Jeff Saker – General Manager City Services
Libby Hynes – General Manager Environment and Amenity
Michael Ballock – Acting General Manager City Development
Geoff Glynn – General Manager Community Assets and Leisure
Jan Black – General Manager Communities and Culture
Graeme Houlden – Manager Capital Works
Sally Curran – Acting Manager Customer and Civic Services
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar, disclosed a conflict of interest in “General Business” Item 9.1 (Channel 31 – Digital Broadcasting) – see page 56.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. V. Fontana

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 July 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 272

5.1 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG

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

- La Trobe Action Group meeting.
- National Tree Planting Day.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Meetings with local residents and traders.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Darebin Parklands Association meeting.
- Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) meeting.

Cr. McCarthy congratulated Darebin film-makers involved with the 2009 Melbourne International Film Festival.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Meeting with Manager of the Darebin Community Legal Centre.
- Interfaith Council meeting.
- La Trobe Action Group meeting.
- Forum for Melbourne International College students.
- Civic Reception for International students.
- City of Darebin Heritage Study Steering Committee meeting.
- Planning meeting in relation to the 2009 Darebin Homemade Wine Festival to be held in November 2009.
- Inner North Community Foundation function, where it was announced that the State Government had provided a \$100,000 grant to the Foundation.

5.4 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN

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

- Planning Committee meeting.
- Northern Bullants vs Collingwood Victorian Football League match at Preston City Oval.
- Civic Reception for International students.

- Local constituent issues.

5.5 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

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

- Local constituent matters.
- 2009 ALP Conference in Sydney.

Cr. Tsitas also highlighted the status of the Local Government Amendment (Conflicting Duties) Bill 2009 introduced into the Parliament.

5.6 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- La Trobe Action Group meeting.
- Blood Donor drive at the Australian Red Cross Blood Donor Centre in Bundoora.
- Forum for Melbourne International College students.
- Civic Reception for International students.
- Meeting with local police representatives to discuss public drinking and public safety issues.
- Opening of refurbished Dental Surgery in Broadway Reservoir.
- East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal meeting.

5.7 REPORT OF CR. VINCE FONTANA

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

- The Mainstreet Australia 2009 awards function.
- Councillor Development Weekend hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria.

5.8 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSIS

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

- Local constituent matters.
- Network meeting involving Councillors of Greek heritage.
- Northern Bullants vs Collingwood Victorian Football League match at Preston City Oval.

5.9 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. DIANA ASMAR

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

- Luncheon involving local Church representatives.
- Darebin Women's Forum.
- Meeting with local police representatives to discuss public drinking and public safety issues.
- A. & E. Smorgan Memorial Award function.
- Local Radio interview to discuss the 2009 Mayor's Event.
- Civic Reception for International students.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**MINUTE NO. 273**

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

The following questions were submitted:

- Ernie Harris of Reservoir asked a question about the status of the proposed closure of the central median on Cheddar Road at Carrol Street Reservoir. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Asmar, the General Manager Community Assets and Leisure, Geoff Glynn, Cr. McCarthy and Cr. Laurence.
- Frank Verlaan of Reservoir asked a question about consideration by Council of options other than closure of the central median on Cheddar Road at Carrol Street Reservoir. The question was responded to by Cr. Greco and the General Manager Community Assets and Leisure, Geoff Glynn.

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

7. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

7.1 RESPONSE TO PUBLIC DRINKING IN EDWARDES STREET RESERVOIR AND CRAMER STREET PRESTON

MINUTE NO. 274

AUTHOR: Coordinator Community Access, Health and Safety - Tennille Temizyuz
Manager Family, Youth and Community Support - Dean Griggs

MANAGER: General Manager Communities and Culture - Jan Black

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: As detailed in report

SUMMARY:

At its meeting on 2 February 2009 Council raised the issue of public drinking. A report was made to Council on 16 March 2009 which discussed a range of alcohol related issues in Darebin including alcohol related harms, alcohol outlet saturation (liquor licenses), public drinking and Alcohol Free Zones. At this meeting Council resolved to receive a further report detailing implications of the establishment of an Alcohol Restricted Zone in the Edwardes Street Reservoir Precinct, a further report detailing a range of strategies to address public drinking in Cramer Street Preston, as well as a report on community engagement and additional resources required to address the issue of public drinking.

Following the meeting on 16 March 2009, Council consulted with a range of key stakeholders including Darebin Police, Darebin Local Safety Committee, trader groups, support services and other Councils. In addition officers undertook research into community perceptions of safety in Reservoir and Preston, experience of other Councils and additional support strategies that can be implemented to address public drinking. The purpose of this report is to present the key findings from the work undertaken and to provide recommendations for the way forward on this issue at the two identified sites.

(This report was presented to Council on 20 July 2009. Council resolved to defer the report pending further consultation with Darebin Police at their briefing session on 27 July 2009. The outcomes of the discussion are noted in the body of this report).

CONSULTATION:

The Darebin Local Safety Committee
Darebin Police
Reservoir Traders Association
Preston Business Advisory Committee
Reservoir Youth
Public Drinkers Preston
Drug and Alcohol Support Services

Housing and Homeless Support Services

Yarra City Council

Internal Council officers including Open Space Planning, Strategic Planning, Youth Services, Social Inclusion and Diversity, Economic Development and Risk Services

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- (1) Endorse a 12-month trial of an Alcohol Restricted Zone at Edwardes Street Reservoir within the boundaries of Ralph Street, High Street, Cleeland Street, Olive Street and Byfield Street.
- (2) Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Darebin Police regarding the enforcement of the Alcohol Restricted Zone for the 12-month period in Edwardes Street Reservoir.
- (3) Develop tools to measure the effectiveness of the trial Alcohol Restricted Zone over the 12-month period in Edwardes Street Reservoir.
- (4) Develop a Public Drinking Strategy which details a range of support strategies to address public drinking in Cramer Street Preston.
- (5) Establish a Public Drinking Working Group to develop the Public Drinking Strategy and assist in its implementation to address public drinking issues in Cramer Street Preston.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. V. Fontana

SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan

THAT Council:

- (1) Endorse a 12-month trial of an Alcohol Restricted Zone in Cramer Street Preston within the boundaries of Bell Street, Plenty Road, Murray Road, High Street, Regent Street, Spring Street and St Georges Road to commence 2 November 2009.
- (2) Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Darebin Police regarding the enforcement of the Alcohol Restricted Zone for the 12-month period in Cramer Street and the Preston Business District zone.
- (3) Develop tools to measure the effectiveness of the trial Alcohol Restricted Zone over the 12-month period in Cramer Street and the Preston Business District zone.
- (4) Endorse a 12-month trial of an Alcohol Restricted Zone at Edwardes Street Reservoir within the boundaries of Ralph Street, High Street, Cleeland Street, Olive Street and Byfield Street to commence on 2 November 2009.

- (5) Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Darebin Police regarding the enforcement of the Alcohol Restricted Zone for the 12-month period in Edwardes Street Reservoir.
- (6) Develop tools to measure the effectiveness of the trial Alcohol Restricted Zone over the 12-month period in Edwardes Street Reservoir.
- (7) Receive a report on the Preston and Reservoir Alcohol Restricted Zones six months after commencement of the zones.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Public Drinking has been an issue in Darebin for the past 10-15 years. Two sites have been identified as being of particular concern regarding public drinking - Edwardes Street Reservoir and Cramer Street Preston. The number of packaged liquor outlets has increased at both sites resulting in an increase in alcohol density and the availability of alcohol.

In 2008 Council received a formal request from both Reservoir Police and the Reservoir Traders Association for the establishment of an Alcohol Restricted Zone in Edwardes Street Reservoir. Whilst no formal requests had been received for an Alcohol Restricted Zone in Preston, this area was also considered due to general complaints related to public drinking that had been received by Council over a number of years.

In response to the request, officers undertook research into Alcohol Restricted Zones and produced a paper titled 'Alcohol Free Zones, A Review of the Evidence'. The information obtained in the development of the paper articulated that any applications for an Alcohol Restricted Zone be assessed against specific criteria which give consideration to the following elements:

- The proposed area for the establishment of an Alcohol Restricted Zone is small with distinct boundaries.
- There is evidence in the area that significant alcohol related issues are present and of priority concern for residents, community groups and the Darebin District Police.
- Adequate police resources are available from Darebin District Police to support the Alcohol Restricted Zone, and manage the issue of displacement.
- The Alcohol Restricted Zone will be applied as part of a crime prevention package.
- Relevant community support and outreach services are aware of alcohol related problems in the identified area, and are committed to providing support for the Alcohol Restricted Zone.

The research report was used to develop a 'Process for establishing an Alcohol Restricted Zone' (see **Appendix A**). This process was presented to the Darebin Local Safety Committee which endorsed its use for the assessment Alcohol Restricted Zone requests.

On 16 March 2009 a report was presented to Council which discussed a range of alcohol related issues in Darebin including alcohol related harms, alcohol outlet saturation (liquor licences), public drinking and Alcohol Restricted Zones (ARZ). The report assessed two identified sites against the 'Process for establishing an Alcohol Restricted Zone' and provided a recommendation regarding the suitability of each site as an Alcohol Restricted Zone.

Based on the assessment, it was decided to:

- Further explore the implications of an Alcohol Restricted Zone in Edwardes Street Reservoir due to the availability of sufficient crime related data and the presence of support services already working with youth in the area to assist with any impacts the alcohol restriction would have.
- Provide a further report on a range of alternate support strategies to be implemented in Preston. The absence of substantial crime-related data for this site and a lack of drug and alcohol support services were key factors in the sites unsuitability for the implementation of an Alcohol Restricted Zone.

Subsequent to Council's meeting on 16 March 2009, an internal working group was established to coordinate a strategic response to the issue of public drinking. The working group was comprised of officers from Youth Services; Family Services; Community Access, Health and Safety; and Social Inclusion and Diversity.

The aims of the Public Drinking Inquiry Working Group were to:

- Provide Council with evidence based information about public drinking issues, specifically information concerning the impacts of establishing Alcohol Restricted Zones;
- Engage local community organisations, support agencies and Darebin Police in the complexity of issues surrounding public drinking;
- Provide Council information about a range of alternate strategies that have been adopted by other Councils both within Victoria and nationally, including detail of indicative costs of such strategies; and
- Ensure Council's devised plan for managing public drinking incorporates a focus on harm minimisation, cultural sensitivity and social equity.

The working group developed a project brief which outlined the consultation and engagement process.

Consultation/ Research

Consultation has taken place via face-to-face meetings with a range of stakeholders including:

- The Darebin Local Safety Committee
- Darebin Police
- Reservoir Traders Association
- Preston Business Advisory Committee
- Reservoir Youth
- Public Drinkers, Preston
- Drug and Alcohol Support Services
- Housing and Homeless Support Services
- Yarra City Council
- Internal Council officers including Open Space Planning, Strategic Planning, Youth Services, Social Inclusion and Diversity, Economic Development and Risk Services.

In addition officers undertook a range of research processes including:-

- Community intercept survey in Edwardes Street Reservoir
- Experience of Councils across Australia who have implemented an Alcohol Restricted Zone
- Support strategies used by other Councils to try and address the issue of public drinking.

Council Consultation with Police 27 July 2009

As requested at the Council meeting on 20 July 2009, Council met with local Police on 27 July 2009 to better understand public drinking issues in Darebin from the Police perspective. Senior Police Officers attended and reiterated from earlier consultations the experience of local Police at both the Reservoir and Preston sites. Issues in Northcote were discussed in relation to the emerging entertainment precinct along High Street. The Police Service Area Manager reiterated support for Council's approach to the issue through considering a range of support strategies combined with a regulatory approach. Local Police stated they would work closely with Council on the implementation of Alcohol Restricted Zones should they be enacted.

Community Intercept Survey

A pilot street intercept survey was conducted at Cramer Street Preston and Edwardes Street Reservoir in which 169 people participated. The survey asked respondents to identify their top safety concerns. Pubic Drinking was one of a range of options outlined on the survey.

Public drinking rated as the fourth highest safety concern. Higher priority safety concerns included theft and vehicle theft and hoon driving.

Experience of Other Councils

Research was undertaken into the experience of other Councils across Australia which have implemented an Alcohol Restricted Zone (ARZ). Data was obtained from twelve Local Government Authorities (LGAs) (see **Appendix B** for list), selected on the basis of their similarities in demographics and complexity of the issue.

Less than half of the LGAs found ARZs as being an effective means of reducing alcohol related crimes and public drinking and all case studies emphasised the need for alternate strategies. Only one case study found that an Alcohol Restricted Zone in and of itself was actually effective.

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in Alcohol Related Crime including graffiti and anti-social behaviour • Gives police stronger power • Provides an opportunity to link some offenders to rehab services • Reduction in alcohol consumption and intoxicated persons • Less visible drinking and reduced harassment • Enhanced image and tourism potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area remains a hotspot for alcohol related crime • No improvement in community perceptions of safety in some areas • Displacement to another location • People engage in more risky behaviour to conceal drinking • Large amounts of unpaid fines/ fines

Positives	Negatives
<p>for the city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of safety have increased in some areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispersal of public drinkers into residential homes leading to anti-social behaviour in domestic settings • Lack of consistency in enforcement • Discrimination against disadvantaged groups • Difficulties with signage, public awareness of zone and its conditions

A summary of the experience of other Councils indicates that the implementation of an Alcohol Restricted Zone:

- Is only effective in addressing symptoms not the cause
- Has led to some improvements but created many negative side effects
- Needs to be combined with a range of alternate support strategies
- Can be effective in particular circumstances, but should only be seen as a short-term measure
- Is a good enforcement tool for police but does not address the complexity of issues related to public drinking
- Is an exclusive public order approach that seeks to remove public drinkers from public spaces further marginalised those already most at risk.

Complementing strategies implemented by other Councils

A range of strategies have been implemented by Councils across Australia to try and address public drinking. These strategies have either been implemented as part of a package of strategies to support an Alcohol Restricted Zone or implemented independently:

- Alcohol Accords
- Alcohol Management/Public Drinking Working Groups
- Education programs
- Restriction in availability of alcohol/reduction in trading hours (eg. no serving of alcohol before 2pm)
- Linking of offenders to rehabilitation services
- Mobile Assistance Patrol: Transport service for intoxicated people
- Youth Outreach Service
- Alcohol Management Plan/Strategy
- Increased police presence
- Food programs
- Therapeutic recreational programs.

Consultation findings - Reservoir

The public drinking that is taking place in Reservoir is not specific to any one cultural, social class, ethnic or age group. People engaging in public drinking range from youth through to older persons, people from newly arrived communities and youth, through to football supporters or workers purchasing alcohol and consuming it in the street on their way home from the train station. There are a number of packaged liquor outlets along Edwardes Street which connect to the rear carpark near the library. As a result the issue is also spilling over into the back carpark and connecting streets.

Traders from the Reservoir Traders Association believe that the public drinking makes the area unattractive, negatively impacts on their business and significantly reduces the perception of safety in the area. Of most significant concern is the safety of residents who live in close proximity to the area or use the community facilities and become subjected to occasional abuse, intimidation and litter from people engaging in public drinking. Darebin Police have a significant number of crime-related instances related to Edwardes Street Reservoir.

Youth that congregate in the area agree that the implementation of an Alcohol Restricted Zone would reduce rubbish, alcohol consumption and alcohol related crime but in doing so would merely push the problem elsewhere and not deal with the underlying factors of drinking. A number of the youths also believe that an Alcohol Restricted Zone would restrict social opportunities for youth and would make them feel unwelcome in the area.

Darebin City Council Youth Services yUte Crew provides a range of support programs for youth in Reservoir engaging in anti-social behaviour including public drinking, including a homework group and a music program through Decibels music studio. Youth Services have also established partnerships with Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS) and Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre in the implementation of these programs. Youth Services are committed to continuing these social support programs into the future.

Consultation findings – Preston

The public drinking that is taking place in Preston is specifically focused on a group of up to 15-20 people, predominately men, that congregate in front of Preston Oval and more recently Preston Market due to availability of seating and shelter. Whilst a range of support services are aware of the group, the group is currently receiving limited support services through the Royal District Nursing Service Homeless Persons Program and Salvation Army. There is also a significant lack drug and alcohol services in the immediate area.

Traders from the Preston Market believe that the public drinking has a number of negative consequences to their business including theft of alcohol and anti-social behaviour. Market Traders including ALDI believe that there has been an increase in incidences since the public drinkers have moved across the road from Preston Oval and are concerned that the issues will continue to exacerbate when the new Centrelink office opens on the Preston Market site. Preston Market security guards have been monitoring the area in front of ALDI and making calls to the Police when issues have escalated.

Other traders agree that the public drinking creates negative perceptions of safety in the area but also recognise that the issue has been ongoing for the past ten to fifteen years and is associated with long-term issues of alcohol abuse and social marginalisation. Whilst certain traders are in strong support of an Alcohol Restricted Zone, other traders are concerned of the impact that will have on the general community and feel that social support strategies need to be implemented to address the root cause of the issue.

Although Darebin Police state that they receive on average three calls per week related to the site, only a small number actually transpire into formal reports. Whilst the Preston Police would welcome the

additional powers of an Alcohol Restricted Zone, they are also concerned that implementing an Alcohol Free Zone in Preston could have a negative impact on perceptions of safety in the precinct. Darebin Police have stated they would consider working collaboratively with Council on a pro-active approach which would include a combination of social support and crime prevention initiatives.

Yarra City Council has been grappling with a similar issue in Smith Street for a number of years and in response to the issue worked in partnership with a range of local support services to develop a multi-disciplinary outreach health and welfare program. The program is located in an existing open space and provides a nutritious meal where people can come and meet with a range of support services and health providers. Whilst public drinking is still a significant issue in Yarra, anecdotal evidence suggests that these support programs have been effective in working with specific groups in diverting public drinking behaviour and engaging people in more supporting and socially engaging programs. Support services in Darebin including the Royal District Nursing Services Homeless Persons Program, Merri Outreach Services, MAYA Healing Centre and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service have indicated their support in implementing a similar program in Darebin.

Yarra City Council is currently proposing a municipal wide alcohol ban to deal with the broader issue of public drinking associated with entertainment precincts and licensed premises.

CORE ISSUES

Edwardes Street Reservoir

Based on the consultation findings, the experience of other Councils and the assessment of the site against the 'Process for establishing an Alcohol Restricted Zone', it is recommended that a twelve month trial zone be implemented in the area of Edwardes Street Reservoir and that a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the zone is carried out after the trial is complete.

The boundaries of the proposed zone are Ralph Street, High Street, Cleeland Street, Olive Street and Byfield Street (refer to **Appendix C** for a map of the recommended zone).

There are a number of key factors that justify a regulatory approach being implemented at this site. They include:

- Longstanding history of the issue
- Formal request received from both Reservoir Police and Reservoir Traders Association
- Direct correlation between public drinking and incidences of crime with a significant number of incidences recorded
- Availability of relevant and suitable support services to assist with impact that the restriction will have on people engaging in public drinking behaviour particularly youth
- The issue is a general issue and is not specific to any one cultural, social class, age group or concentrated in one location
- Consensual support from both Police and Reservoir Traders.

Whilst there may be some negative impacts of the trial Alcohol Restricted Zone on the youth who congregate in the Edwardes Street precinct it is felt that the broader social benefit of decreasing alcohol related criminal activity is of greater concern. Council will continue to engage with them through the yUte Crew outreach program to educate the youth and assist them with the transition. Further partnerships will be established with Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS) and Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre to support this work.

There may also be some unintended consequences on the general community, as the local law would prohibit anyone from consuming alcohol in public from an open container anywhere in the zone. Licensed venues would not be affected by the restrictions and would be able to continue trading as normal under their existing liquor license provisions.

Council's current General Local Law 2005 includes provision 13A for Liquor Control enabling alcohol to be restricted in specific areas. In order to enact the provision the Chief Executive Officer would need to make a declaration under clause 13A of the General Local Law 2005 which would provide the specific geographic and time restriction details for an Alcohol Restricted Zone. Darebin Police would then be responsible for the enforcement of the Alcohol Restricted Zone.

It is recommended that a three-month education and establishment period take place in which the declaration can be prepared and signed, the community can be informed, signage can be developed and the necessary monitoring and implementation procedures can be established. A proposed starting date for the ARZ therefore is 2 November 2009.

Council officers will also be working towards the integration of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles into the Reservoir Structure Planning process to create a safer environment in Edwardes Street Reservoir in the future.

Cramer Street, Preston

Based on the consultation findings, the experience of other Councils and the assessment of the site against the 'Process for establishing an Alcohol Restricted Zone', it is recommended that a range of alternative social support strategies be implemented instead of an Alcohol Restricted Zone in Cramer Street Preston.

There are a number of key factors which justify such an approach at this site. They include:

- Minimal recorded crime data related to the site
- Lack of drug and alcohol support services currently engaging with the group which would prevent a holistic approach from being implemented
- Concerns regarding displacement of drinking to alternate public sites or into residential homes, which could possibly lead to increase in anti-social behaviour in domestic settings
- Concerns regarding the impact that an ARZ would have on an already at risk, marginalised group of people concentrated in the one location.

Instead, it is proposed that Council develop a public drinking strategy that details a range of pro-active strategies for this site including:

- Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Darebin Police
- Establish a Public Drinking Working Group (including both Council and community stakeholders ie. police, traders and support services)
- Provide direct support to public drinkers through food security and nutrition programs based on previous work undertaken by City of Yarra
- Source funding for Therapeutic Recreational Programs and partnerships with Men's Sheds
- Contact with Liquor Licensees to explore restricting hours of alcohol availability in zone
- Formalised partnerships with support services through the Public Drinking Working Group and associated projects. This could include local church groups, Darebin Community Health, Royal District Nursing Service Homeless persons Program and Moreland Hall
- Ongoing facilitation of the Darebin Alcohol Accord

- Advocate to State Government for increased availability of Drug and Alcohol services in Preston.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Not applicable

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Public Drinking is a complex social issue which impacts significantly on both the people engaging in the behaviour and the general community. People engaging in public drinking behaviour are generally at risk, disadvantaged and already significantly marginalised.

In 2007 the Victoria Government enacted the Human Rights Charter. The Charter is an agreed set of human rights, freedoms and responsibilities protected by law. Government departments and public bodies must observe these rights when they create laws, set policies and provide services. The Human Rights Charter may have application in the consideration of local laws to restrict public drinking. Under the Act, Charter rights can be restricted if there is compelling evidence to support the limitation, the restriction is proportionate to the objective sought, and the limitation falls within the reasonable range of solutions to the problem.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The initial set up of an Alcohol Restricted Zone in Edwardes Street Reservoir would have the following budget implications:

- Signage (estimated at \$2,000)
- In-kind support for ongoing maintenance of signage
- In-kind support for social support and outreach services.

Further financial support is required to implement a range of food security, therapeutic recreational and social support programs to support the public drinkers in the Preston precinct. Officers will work to source this additional funding through external funding and grant processes.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Reservoir

- Local Law to be enacted within the proposed zone
- Media campaign to inform public of the Local Law
- Development of evaluation tools
- Memorandum of Understanding with Darebin Police for enforcement of zone.

Preston

- Development of a Public Drinking Strategy to formalise the above mentioned work
- Development of a Public Drinking Working Group to develop the strategy and assist in its implementation
- Memorandum of Understanding to be developed with key stakeholders regarding the response strategies (ie. Darebin Police)
- Implementation of social support programs and food security initiatives
- Sourcing of additional external funding for the ongoing implementation of such programs.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin 2008, Alcohol-Free Zones – a review of the evidence.
- Council meeting report, Alcohol Related Issues in Darebin, 16 March 2009

**7.2 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY FRAMEWORK,
ANNUAL REPORT****MINUTE NO. 275****AUTHOR:** Coordinator Community Access Health and Safety - Tennille Temizyuz**MANAGER:** Manager Family Youth and Community Support - Dean Griggs
General Manager, Communities and Culture - Jan Black**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** As detailed in report**SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to outline the key achievements of the City of Darebin, Community Health and Safety Framework 2005 – 2009.

CONSULTATION:

Darebin Health Steering Committee
Darebin Local Safety Committee

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. G. Greco
SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan

THAT Council note this final Community Health and Safety Framework 2005-2009 Annual Report.

CARRIED**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

All local governments in Victoria are required by law to provide a Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP) for their municipal district. A MPHP is designed to identify existing and emerging public health priority areas and provide a range of preventative and responsive strategies to enable people to achieve their maximum wellbeing.

The *Community Health and Safety Framework* 2005-2009 adopted in June 2005 has been the Municipal Public Health Plan for the City of Darebin for the last four years. With the current Health and Safety Framework coming to an end, Council is in the process of developing a new Community Health and Wellbeing Plan to span the period 2009-2013.

The purpose of this paper is to report back on the key achievements of the current Community Health and Safety Framework 2005-2009.

CORE ISSUES

The Community Health and Safety Framework 2005-2009 articulated Council's approach to addressing public health and wellbeing issues in the City of Darebin. The Framework adopted a three-pronged approach with a focus on community health, community safety and alcohol and drug related harms. These three strategy areas focused on in the framework were DAREBIN*health*, DAREBIN*safe* and DAREBIN*substance*. Annual strategic plans were developed for each of these key areas which specified a range of projects to enhance health and wellbeing for the Darebin community.

Council had three committees – the Darebin Local Safety Committee, Darebin Health Committee and the Darebin Drug and Alcohol Coordination Committee – which comprised of a range of community services providers and Council officers that assisted in implementing the projects identified in the annual strategies. Key stakeholders include Darebin Police, Darebin Community Health, Connex, Department of Human Services, Metropolitan Fire Service and the Northern Division of General Practice.

Three Annual Achievements Reports have been produced throughout the life of the framework for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. This report provides an overview of the four years of the framework.

There have been a number of key achievements of the Community Health and Safety Framework 2005-2009.

These include:

DAREBIN*health*

Good Food Alliance - The Good Food Alliance is a joint initiative of Darebin and Banyule City Councils which seeks to address the issue of local food security. The alliance meets on a bi-monthly basis in addition to holding a calendar of community and professional forums each year to learn from guest speakers and share information on local initiatives that address food security. Five events were held across Darebin and Banyule in 2008/2009.

Food Security Policy and Strategy – Council secured \$60,000 through the Department of Human Services for research regarding food security to support the development of a Food Security Strategy. Research and mapping of fresh food outlets has commenced which will influence and support the development of the policy and strategy.

Heatwave Strategy – Darebin has secured \$25,000 through the Department of Human Services for the development of a Heatwave Strategy. Development of the strategy is to commence in August 2009

Planning for a Healthier North – Since early 2006, Council, in partnership with Northern Health, have been leading a project called 'Planning for a Healthier North'. The project has brought together health leaders from seven local government areas in Melbourne's north to plan for a more integrated approach to health service delivery over the next decade. A series of workshops funded by the Department of Human Services have taken place since 2006 to support this work.

Streets Ahead – Darebin has received funding of \$80,000 per annum for three years for the implementation of the ‘Streets Ahead’ project. Streets Ahead is an initiative of VicHealth which aims to increase active travel participation in children aged between 4 and 12 years in the targeted areas of East Preston and Reservoir.

Health Posters – As part of the Mayor’s event at Reservoir Leisure Centre in 2008, a series of Health posters were developed which include key statistics and facts regarding a range of key community health concerns such as mental health, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. These posters have since been used for a range of community and promotional events.

Suicide and Self Harm – Development of a research paper and pilot project with Northern Community Church of Christ to better understand the issue of suicide in our community.

DAREBINsafe

Graffiti – Council undertakes a range of initiatives which aim to manage and reduce graffiti in Darebin. These include the development of a Graffiti Management Strategy 2008-2012, support of the Darebin Graffiti Management Group and implementation of the Darebin Graffiti Subsidy Program to assist residential and commercial private property owners with the removal of unsightly graffiti from their properties. In 2008 Council also obtained funding through the Department of Justice and held Graffiti clean up events in key retail activity centres.

Road Safety – Council has continued in the implementation of a range of road safety initiatives including the Not So Fast speed reduction program and the Anti-Social Driving Program.

Partnerships to Prevent Violence Against Women – Council has been a leader in the successful implementation of a range of violence prevention initiatives including the development of Women and Men’s Family Violence Help Cards, presently being translated into 13 languages, securing VicHealth funding to work with Darebin Interfaith Council in 2007 and a further three years funding in 2008 to expand this to interfaith communities across the North. In 2009-2010, Council has funded a new initiative for a dedicated Preventing Violence Against Women Officer and VicHealth has selected Darebin to network with local government across Victoria to build their capacity to prevent violence against women.

Community Safety Month - Community Safety Month is a Victorian Safe Communities Network initiative that is held annually in October and is coordinated by the Department of Justice. Council holds a range of events during community safety months including Safe Strolls, Good neighbour Awards and injury prevention information sessions.

Community Safety Audits Program - The Community Initiated Safety Audit Program was established in 2004 with the aim of creating safer environments in Darebin, maintaining community amenity, and strengthening community ownership of public spaces. A Community Safety Audit is a small group process, which brings a variety of people together to systematically examine the level of safety in a given area. Council has undertaken over ten Community Initiated Safety Audits since 2005.

Operation Bounceback - Operation Bounceback is a joint initiative between the City of Darebin, the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council and Victoria Police which aims to hit back at motor vehicle theft by educating the community and informing young people about the risks involved in engaging in motor theft. Activities are held annually to promote awareness of car theft and to distribute immobilisers to Darebin residents that have been victim to car theft.

Street Parties Program - The Darebin Street Parties Program was initiated in 2007 to assist residents in hosting events with their neighbours, and to promote the concept of getting to know your neighbours as a community safety initiative.

DAREBIN*substance*

Alcohol and Other Drug Support Services Help Card – In 2008 Council produced a pocket-sized ‘help card’ which provides information on user and family-based support services available to Darebin residents. It also includes contact details of additional services which may be of assistance including housing help, legal aid, suicide and family violence hotlines and referral services.

Darebin Alcohol Accord - The Darebin Alcohol Accord is an ongoing initiative of Council which draws together Darebin’s licensees of hotels, bars, licensed restaurants, licensed clubs, packaged liquor outlets, reception centres, and sporting clubs to address relevant issues with a combined and co-operative approach.

Advocacy work regarding alcohol density - In January 2007 Council lodged objections to two bulk discount liquor licence applicants on the grounds of ‘harm minimisation’. This work has been part of the Darebin Alcohol Strategy 2006 and highlights the capacity of Council to develop structural responses that reduce or limit the harmful impacts of alcohol in the community.

Public Drinking – Council has undertaken work in regard to public drinking including the development of a research paper titled ‘Alcohol Free Zones: A Review of the Evidence’, research into the experience of other Councils and community consultation with a range of stakeholders. Council is currently in the process of considering the findings of this work.

Council is currently in the process of preparing the new Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009 – 2013 which will build on the key achievements and work of the Community Health and safety Framework 2005-2009. Some of the key projects that will follow on into the new framework include food security, heatwave strategy, alcohol and drug use, community safety and violence against women. In addition social inclusion, physical activity, housing, transport and climate change will be key focuses for the new plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

Projects undertaken in regard to food security and the development of a heatwave strategy have direct linkages with Council’s Climate Change Action Plan and environmental sustainability initiatives.

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. Key safety initiatives such as the safe strolls initiated as part of Community Safety Month as well as a range of violence prevention initiatives are focused on reducing violence and increasing perceptions of safety within Darebin.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Projects were funded through a range of funding sources including existing operational budgets, partnerships with other community stakeholders and through the receipt of funding grants through Department of Human Services, Helen McPherson Smith Trust, VicHealth and National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Planning is currently underway for the new Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 which is scheduled for Council adoption on 16 November 2009.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Community Health and Safety Framework 2005 -2009
Annual Achievements Reports 2006, 2007, 2008

**7.3 DISABILITY ACCESS AND INCLUSION PLAN 2006 - 2009
ANNUAL REPORT AND DRAFT DISABILITY ACCESS AND
INCLUSION PLAN 2009-2013**

MINUTE NO. 276

AUTHOR: Coordinator Community Access, Health and Safety - Tennille Temizyuz

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

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: As detailed in report

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to report on the key achievements of Council's existing Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2006-2009 and to present the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009 - 2013 for community consultation.

CONSULTATION:

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee
Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC)
Advocacy Disability Ethnicity and Community (ADEC)
Northern Support Services
Link Community Transport
Department of Human Services

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT Council:

- (1) Note this Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2006-2009 Annual Report.
- (2) Endorse the draft *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013* attached as **Appendix A** to this report for community consultation.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

Council developed its first Disability Policy in conjunction with the development of its initial Disability Action Plan in 1997, being one of the first Councils in Victoria to develop a plan to improve access and decrease disadvantage for people with a disability. Council's second Disability Action Plan, 'Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2006-2009' was adopted by Council in September 2006 and is in its final year of implementation.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Policy 2009, adopted by Council in April 2009, provides the framework for the new Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 which will be forwarded to Council for endorsement later in the year. The purpose of this report is to provide the final report on the current plan and present the draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 (see **Appendix A**) for community consultation.

A final review of the current Disability Access and Inclusion Plan indicates that 92% of the actions/strategies proposed in the Plan have been completed, 7% are in progress and one action was abandoned throughout the course of the Plan.

Some of the key achievements resulting from the implementation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2006-2009 include:

- Increased availability of accessible communication tools for use by Council staff such as podcasting, documents in alternative formats, portable hearing loops for hire, and available Auslan interpreters
- The development of Accessible Signage Guidelines for use by Council staff
- Access improvements to Council-owned public facilities and buildings
- Access appraisal and access improvements including the installation of a lift at the Council depot
- Planning and securing of funding for an All Abilities Playground – Bundoora Park
- The development of a Footpath Replacement Program and Footpaths Activity Policy
- Implementation program for Kerb Ramps and Tactile Ground Surface Indicators
- Development of inclusive Youth Services Programs
- Review of a range of Council services including Council's Waste Services Program, Darebin Youth Services and Darebin Library services
- Development of a guide for hosting accessible events for use by Council staff and community members
- The hosting of Accessible events across Darebin including the Darebin Festival, Sustainable Homes Workshops and International Day of People with a Disability
- Development of the Reasonable Adjustment Policy and other strategies to support people with a disability in the City of Darebin workplace
- Establishment of work placement initiatives within Council to support the inclusion and participation of people with a disability in the workforce
- Facilitation of forums to educate service providers and residents with a disability about how to engage Council and have input into decision making process

- Development of accessible emergency evacuation plans across Council buildings and facilities
- Provision of specific access information to the community including 'Access and Mobility Maps' and 'Good Access is Good Business' Information to local traders
- Review of a range of Council policies and strategies to incorporate relevant disability access requirements including the Open Space Strategy, Arts and Cultural Strategy, Integrated Transport Plan and Community Consultation and Engagement Policy
- Implementation of Access Awareness Training, Deaf Awareness Training and Mental Health Awareness Training to over 50 Darebin staff members
- Advocacy on a range of State and Federal access issues including the Access to Premises Building Standards, Assistance Animal Review and the National Mental Health Reform
- Specific projects to increase access in the local community including implementation of the RECHARGE scheme and initiative to campaign for awareness about the management of overhanging branches and encroaching vegetation on footpaths.

The Disability Strategy Management Team (DSMT), which is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer and has representation of senior management from across each of the six Departments, was responsible for the development and monitoring of the plan. The Community Access, Health and Safety Unit supported DSMT and the wider organisation with the implementation of the plan over the three year period.

A key factor in the success of the current plan is the incorporation of the actions/strategies into Council's Business Planning processes including the incorporation of strategies into Branch Service Plans. This has ensured that the plan has become a whole-of-Council response and has created a transparent and formal process for monitoring the implementation of the plan.

CORE ISSUES

The new Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 has been prepared in draft format for community consultation. The City of Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 builds upon the successes of the existing Plan and outlines Council's strategic agenda for enhancing Access to Council's planning processes, services, communications and employment systems, as well as the broader community. The Council Plan 2009-2013 and the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 (currently in development) provide the planning framework for the plan. The plan also demonstrates the City of Darebin's commitment to compliance with the Victorian Charter of Human Rights Act 2006, the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, the Disability Act 2006, and the relevant Australian Standards for Access AS1428.

This plan employs the broad, legal definition of the term 'Disability', which refers to any impairment of a physical, intellectual, psychiatric, neurological, or sensory nature including individuals with a visual impairment or who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The term 'Disability' also refers to people who have a medical condition, short-term or temporary disability or learning difficulty.

The City of Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 seeks to protect and advance the rights of people with a disability in the community through planning and action on a number of levels:

At an organisational level - through promoting and facilitating gradual systemic change in the organisation to establish standards, and delivery modes of disability access.

At a community level - by supporting service providers, community groups and residents to increase the participation of people with a disability in community activities and decision making processes.

At a State and National level - through engaging higher levels of government, advocating on behalf of people with a disability and promoting 'rights awareness'.

The Plan is underpinned by a range of Federal and State legislative requirements and policy directions including:-

- The Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Building Code of Australia
- Australian Standards for Access and Mobility 1428 Suite of Standards
- Draft Access to Premises Standards
- The Disability Act 2006
- The National Disability Strategy (currently under development)
- The Social Inclusion Agenda
- The Victorian Charter of Human Rights Act 2006
- The Victorian Equal Opportunities Act 1995
- The Victorian State Disability Plan 2002-2012
- A Fairer Victoria.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 is also positioned within a broader framework of Strategies and Policies within a municipal context. Other key Council documents with a direct relationship to the City of Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan include:

- The Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Policy 2009
- The Darebin Diversity Policy 2007
- The City of Darebin Social Inclusion Framework
- Active Ageing Strategy 2010-2020, under development at the time of writing
- The Community Transport Strategy Future Directions 2007-2012
- Access for All Abilities (AAA) Provider Plan
- The City of Darebin MetroAccess Community Building Plan.

The City of Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 is also intricately linked to the following two key projects which focus on enhancing access in the broader community, the MetroAccess Initiative and the Access for All Abilities Program. Council currently employs a program officer (with funding provided by the State Government) for these two programs.

The consultation process

The City of Darebin, Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 has been developed following four separate phases of consultation, which occurred subsequent to an extensive research process involving disability profiling of the Darebin community.

In the first phase of consultation, Council staff engaged the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) to provide feedback on Council's previous Access Plan and determine the new plan's key priority areas.

The key priority areas that the Committee agreed upon to form the basis of the new Access Plan include the following:

- Activities and Events
- Advocacy and Lobbying
- Building, Infrastructure and Planning
- Governance
- Health, Safety and Wellbeing
- Information and Communication
- Services, and
- Workforce Development.

Following the development of the key priority areas of the plan, the Advisory Committee put forth some recommendations for strategies relating to each Key Priority Area.

Following this initial consultation with the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee, staff from the Community Access, Health and Safety Unit facilitated nine workshops involving internal Council staff members to further develop the draft Strategies that would be linked to the key priority areas of the new plan. Over ninety staff members from across Council, most of which were senior management staff representing whole departments, attended the internal consultations.

In May 2009 Council hosted a community consultation on the Disability Access Plan that involved the participation of over forty people from across Darebin including residents with a disability, service providers and representatives from key disability and diversity focused community organisations. At the consultation, Council staff presented the proposed key priority areas and strategies of the new plan to attendees, inviting their feedback. Council staff also requested feedback about possible initiatives that Council could undertake during the lifespan of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan. This process of consultation enabled Council officers to finalise the key priority areas and strategies of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan, and collect information about possible initiatives which could be incorporated into the internal annual action plans for Council officers.

The final stage of consultation involved a presentation of the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan draft key priority areas and Strategies to the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee, and the Darebin Strategic Management Committee for final consideration. The Darebin Disability Advisory Committee are satisfied with the current draft document.

The Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009-2013 will be complemented by annual action plans which will provide the detailed actions/initiatives for each of the four years of the plan. The action plans will be internal documents that will be integrated into Council's business planning processes.

Consultation with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

The research undertaken to support the plan indicated that 51% of people who report a need for assistance in undertaking core activities speak a language other than English. It was particularly important therefore that specific consultation take place with services working with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities. A meeting was held with staff from Action on Disabilities in Ethnic Communities (ADEC) to ensure that the Plan effectively integrated the key needs for this group.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Enhancing access for people with a disability can sometimes result in actions or initiatives that are inconsistent with Council's environmental strategies. For example, producing documents in large print may increase paper consumption and the installation of automated doors may increase energy consumption.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Disability is one of the three key focus areas identified in Council's Diversity Policy. Increasing access to people with a disability to Council's facilities, buildings and programs will enhance the participation and sense of belonging for people with a disability in Darebin.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Actions and strategies identified in the Disability Access and Inclusion Plan will be met within existing operational budgets. Additional resources when required will be sourced from relevant organisations ie. Department of Human Services. The current capital works program includes an allocation of \$200,000 per year, for the next four years, for access improvements to Council facilities.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Notification about the consultation process will be advertised in local media as well as a mailout to local service providers and residents with a disability. Copies of the plan will be available to residents in alternate formats and languages upon request. The consultation period will take place from the 11 – 28 August 2009.

The draft plan will be forwarded to Council's key advisory committees including Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC) and Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC).

Feedback from the community consultation will be considered and a final draft will be presented to Council for endorsement

A copy of the Plan will be lodged with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

An internal annual action plan for 2009-2010 will be developed in consultation with staff across the organisation.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2006 -2009
Disability Access and Inclusion Policy 2009

7.4

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FEDERATION OF INDIAN STUDENTS IN AUSTRALIA

MINUTE NO. 277

AUTHOR: Cultural Diversity Coordinator – Jeremy Liyanage

MANAGER: Manager Social Inclusion and Diversity – John Smith

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Not Applicable

SUMMARY:

This report proposes some key points for inclusion in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation of Indian Students in Australia (FISA) and Darebin City Council.

CONSULTATION:

- Mr Gautam Gupta, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Federation of Indian Students in Australia
- Members of the Darebin Overseas Students Advisory Committee

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

- (1) Note the key points included in the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Federation of Indian Students in Australia and the Darebin City Council attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Endorse the development of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federation of Indian Students in Australia (FISA).

CARRIED**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

The Federation of Indian Students in Australia (FISA) was incorporated in 2002 to fill the need for representation of Indian students on matters of concern to them. The Federation strives to be recognised as a point of reference for Indian students nationally. The Federation now supports a wide ranging network of students and undertakes events and activities to provide social support for students while increasing community dialogue.

The Chair of the FISA Advisory Committee, Mr Gautam Gupta attended the forum held by the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC) last year about International Students and was an enthusiastic participant. Mr Gupta has had considerable contact with Council since then as Council has developed and undertaken a range of projects to assist International Students.

At its meeting on 20 July 2009, Council resolved to receive a series of dot points that might form a Memorandum of Understanding between FISA and Council.

As a result, the Coordinator, Cultural Diversity met with Mr Gupta on 22 July 2009 to discuss the key components of such an agreement. The result of that meeting is a draft Memorandum of Understanding (see **Appendix A**).

CORE ISSUES

The proposed Memorandum of Understanding will:

- Recognise that Council's work with International Students is broad in scope, but will be confined to particular projects with Indian Students in Australia;
- Address short, medium and long term activities and aspirations;
- Provide a structure for the development of a range of joint projects. In particular, the document could provide scope for Council to auspice projects developed by FISA by agreement; and
- Provide a framework for FISA to provide advice to Council about ways to improve access to Council services and Council decision making processes.

The attached draft Memorandum of Understanding (see **Appendix A**) lists a set of principles and objectives and details obligations of both parties. It is intended that a number of specific projects will be developed to actualise the document.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

None immediately, although it is possible that FISA may like to pursue joint environmental projects with Council.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Memorandum will form one part of a much larger set of projects designed to support International Students, including Indian students.

The provision of support to International Students is a key current Social Inclusion priority for Council.

Other

Nil.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- The draft Memorandum will be finalised in early August.
- Possible projects of mutual benefit will be identified and scoped in consultation with the Darebin Overseas Students Advisory Committee
- A final Memorandum of Understanding and set of project concepts will be presented to Council for endorsement by mid-October 2009.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Minutes 20 July 2009.

7.5 "STEPS TO IMPROVEMENT" – STATUS OF FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE PROGRAM**MINUTE NO. 278****AUTHOR: Manager Capital Works – Graeme Houlden****MANAGER: General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: \$500,000 funded in 2009/2010 and \$500,000 per annum referred to the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 Capital Works Budgets****SUMMARY:**

Council has allocated significant Capital Works funds to the repair of footpaths within Darebin over the last 4 years with a further \$500,000 in 2009/2010 and this report reviews the process and outcomes of the works undertaken to date.

From the review it is apparent that further funds will be required to ensure the ongoing integrity of Councils footpath assets. It is expected that the major funding of \$500,000 per annum will need to continue until 2011/2012 from which time this may be able to be reduced to approximately \$250,000 per annum for the provision of ongoing maintenance.

CONSULTATION:

Major Works Officer - Paul Marino
Roads Manager – Vincent King
Manager Infrastructure Planning – Robert Cauchi

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan****SECONDED: Cr. V. Fontana****THAT:**

- (1) This report on the status of the “Steps to Improvement” program and footpath inspection program be noted
- (2) A further \$500,000 be referred to the 2010/2011, 2011/2012 Capital Works budgets and \$250,000 for the 2012/2013 and beyond Capital works budget for footpath works.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Council has responsibility to maintain footpaths and provide a suitable and safe surface for pedestrians. The extent of the footpath networks is significant with approximately 1200km of footpath equating to approximately 800,000 concrete bays together with sections of asphalt footpath. The asset replacement cost of the footpath is estimated at \$80 million.

A number of factors cause the damage to footpaths and can include:

- (i) **Natural ground movement within Darebin.** This area is susceptible to reactive clay movement due to drought. This is difficult to control as it an environmental issue and will continue due to changes in the moisture level of the ground.
- (ii) **Damage by builders during construction.** This is generally dealt with by Asset Protection Permits and repairs are paid for by the builders/owners. This system does not account for all damage as trucks may drive over areas not covered by the permit.
- (iii) **Service authority connections and plant installation.** These problems are generally covered under the Road Management Act where fees are collected to repair damage caused by this work or conditions imposed to rectify damage.
- (iv) **Tree root growth of street trees.** While tree selection plays an important part in the trees planted in nature strips there is always tree root growth which will have an affect on the footpath in some way. This can be minimised by a number of means although it usually results in some form of repair to the path over the life of the tree.

CORE ISSUES

In 2004/2005 a footpath inspection was carried out and 27,000 defects were identified across the municipality. The defects were noted in the GIS system as a record of the then known defects. The "Steps to Improvement" program was initiated in the 2005/2006 financial year with Council allocating \$1,000,000 for repairs to the footpath network. A further \$500,000 was allocated in the 2006/2007, 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 Capital Works program for footpath repairs.

The renewal/repair works have been carried out by the Capital Works Branch using annual contractors. This has allowed a large volume of work to be carried out without impacting on Council's day-to-day operations. Work commenced in the southern section of the City and is generally progressing northward on a systematic basis. A plan (**Appendix A**) shows the extent of the work carried out to date.

The works carried out includes the replacement of broken bays and grinding of footpath joints but does not include bays with hairline cracks that have not moved sufficiently to cause a trip hazard. The volume of the works undertaken is shown in the following table:

Year	Budget	Bays Repaired	Joints Ground
2005/06	\$1,000,000	2,220	24,675
2006/07	\$500,000	578	21,410
2007/08	\$500,000	616	17,600
2008/09	\$500,000	1,740	8,290

Year	Budget	Bays Repaired	Joints Ground
Totals	\$2,500,000	5,154	71,975

As works were undertaken, the number of defects found was greater than the initial survey detected due to relatively low criteria used in the initial assessment. The additional defects were repaired while working in the various streets.

The use of annual contractors has allowed the City Services staff to keep customer service complaints on trip hazards up to date by placing a temporary asphalt repair on any reported hazard. These will be repaired by Council's annual contractors as they work northward through the City.

(a) Extent of Progress

The "Steps to Improvement" program is now into its fifth year and by the end of 2009/2010 an amount of \$3,000,000 will have been spent on footpath repairs and this has generally covered over 70% of the municipality. It is estimated that a further \$1,000,000 will be required to complete the rest of the municipality. Several sections in the remaining area were repaired prior to the commencement of this program and at this stage it is expected that only moderate repairs will be required to be completed in those areas.

The area yet to be repaired includes the Gresswell Grange, Lancaster Gate and Springthorpe subdivisions which may be significant in the extent of the works required.

(b) Public Awareness and Publicity

While the works are being undertaken on site by the annual contractors in the various streets an advertising board is erected to promote the "Steps to Improvement" program to the residents. This assists in the community understanding of the work being undertaken by Council to improve the footpath network. This has been supplemented by information provided in the Darebin News, Ward newsletters and the Mayors column.

(c) Process Reviews

In addition to the "Steps to Improvement" program there have been some process reviews undertaken to ensure that other programs and procedures are contributing to the overall improvement in the protection and repair of footpaths.

(i) Asset Protection Permit System

It is important to capture the cost for any damage to the path network and this has been able to be addressed in part through the use of "Asset Protection" permits as a way to minimise footpath repair costs to Council. The use of this system and the relevant inspections under the local law (General Local Law 2005) has also resulted in a decrease in the environmental problems associated with building sites such as dirt on roads and concrete spills.

(ii) Footpath Reinstatements by Authorities

Works carried out by service authorities generally require some form of repairs to be undertaken on Council's road or footpath assets. In recent times Council has agreed to Yarra Valley Water carrying out their own reinstatements. This avoids time delays and the authorities are also in control of their own costs. The resulting repairs are on a maintenance program for 12 months before Council takes over the repaired areas.

(iii) Footpath Inspections - Road Management Act

Under the Road Management Act, footpath inspections are to be undertaken by Council at regular intervals. The proposed inspections under Council's Road Management Plan are every 12 months in high activity pedestrian areas and every five years in low activity residential areas.

(iv) Subdivisional Standards - Footpaths

The extent of repairs required in the newer estates due to builders damage has been significant in some locations and as a result the path thickness in future subdivisions is to be increased from 75mm plain concrete to 125mm reinforced concrete which will not be damaged as easily and reduce Council's future maintenance costs.

(d) Footpath Inspection Program

The work carried out to date under this program has improved the usability of the footpath network in over 60% of the municipality. This will continue in the La Trobe Ward for the next three years. This will be followed by an ongoing rotation of Ward inspections and repairs as follows:

2009/2010	La Trobe Ward
2010/2011	La Trobe Ward
2011/2012	La Trobe Ward
2012/2013	Rucker Ward
2013/2014	Cazaly Ward

While footpath inspections are already being carried out, the inspection regime as required under the Road Management Act will begin this financial year and the information will be stored in the Customer and Asset Management system for ongoing records of defects and works carried out on the footpath network.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

As part of the footpath grinding works, contractors use recycled water instead of potable water from fire hydrants and the equipment used includes a vacuum system to recycle the water for reuse. The vacuum system also minimises spillage into the drainage system.

All tenderers are also required to have an environmental management plan in place during the works to minimise environmental contamination during the works.

During the project various materials such as asphalt and concrete will be taken to recycling stations for reprocessing to materials for later use.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Steps to Improvement Program removes footpath irregularities in order to provide a smooth and safe pedestrian access within the street in order to provide access for all.

Other

This work is seen as a key component of the Disability Strategy and the primary program to remove trip hazards from footpaths in order to meet Council's obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act, Council's Road Management Plan and the Road Management Act.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that \$1,500,000 will be required over the next three financial years (2009/2010-2011/2012) to complete the initial repairs to the footpath network. In order to understand the future cost for maintaining the areas that have now been repaired a review of subsequent path damage by ground movement has been carried out on a number of areas that have already been completed.

It is expected that an amount of \$250,000 will be required in 2012/2013 to maintain the repaired areas on an ongoing basis unless the monitoring program finds a different outcome.

Year	Budget
2009/10	\$500,000
2010/11	\$500,000
2011/12	\$500,000
2012/13	\$250,000 ongoing
	Total \$1,750,000

FUTURE ACTIONS

In order to meet our obligations under the Road Management Act, the "Steps to Improvement" program needs to be continued on an ongoing basis. The funding levels required will be reviewed as works progress through the initial repair phase and then the ongoing maintenance process of the program.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Disability Discrimination Act
- Council Standards Drawings
- City of Darebin Subdivisional Requirements

7.6 MERRI CREEK AND ENVIRONS STRATEGY**MINUTE NO. 279****AUTHOR:** Manager Open Space Planning - Allan Wicks**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Council makes an annual contribution to the Merri Creek Management Committee. Actions outlined in the strategy will require development and costing and only then will be submitted for consideration as part of Council's capital works program.**SUMMARY:**

The Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 1999 has been used by Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) and its members and many of its actions have been implemented. The Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 2009-2014 is a major revision of the previous document. The Strategy was reviewed by representatives of all member bodies and went through a public consultation process. This document is an important planning document and reference tool for Darebin Council and the Strategy should be adopted in principle.

CONSULTATION:

MCMC members including representatives from Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea and Yarra Councils and Mitchell Shire.

Friends of Merri Creek, Friends of Wallan Creek

Merri Creek Management Committee Staff

Local Communities

Manager Urban Development - Michael Ballock

Bushland Coordinator - Luke Sandham

Environmental Strategy - Michelle Bennett

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy**SECONDED:** Cr. V. Fontana**THAT:**

- (1) Darebin Council acknowledge the production of a new Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 2009-2014 and commend the Committee for preparing this planning document.
- (2) Darebin Council endorse the Strategy in principle and the Strategy be used as a planning tool in order to achieve the overarching goals for the Merri Catchment as described in the Strategy.

- (3) Council note the action program listed in the Strategy attached as **Appendix B** to this report.
- (4) As specific projects are identified, and proposals are developed, applications for capital works funding be included in the budget process for Council's consideration.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Merri Creek Management Committee Inc (MCMC) is an environmental coordination and management agency formed in 1989 to achieve a shared vision for the waterway corridors of the Merri Catchment. Its members include all the municipalities in the catchment – Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea, Yarra and Mitchell plus the Friends of Merri Creek and the Friends of Wallan Creek. Representatives of these member groups form the Committee of Management that guides the MCMC's activities.

MCMC's primary aim is to ensure the preservation of natural and cultural heritage, and the ecologically sensitive restoration, development and maintenance of the Merri Creek and tributaries, their corridors and associated ecological communities.

MCMC's mission is to respect and honour the spirit of the land and its peoples, indigenous plants and animals, and works with the community to preserve, restore and promote the Merri Creek, its catchment and neighbouring region as a vital living system.

The Merri Creek and Environs Strategy was completed in 1999. This strategy evolved from a review of the Merri Creek Concept Plan Final Draft (Melbourne Parks and Waterways and Merri Creek Management Committee 1994). The 1999 Strategy was jointly prepared and owned by Melbourne Water, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the municipalities of Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea and Yarra.

Since 1999 Melbourne Water and the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (now Department of Sustainability and Environment) have withdrawn from MCMC and no longer participate in the strategy process.

CORE ISSUES

A strategic document for Darebin Council and other Member bodies

The Merri Creek and Environs Strategy (MCES) is a document intended to give direction to managers of the waterway corridors of the Merri Catchment. The document is strategic in intent but also includes important site specific actions which underpin its strategic direction.

The new version of the strategy includes numerous changes resulting from the incorporation of many goals, objectives, targets and actions of the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy 2004-2009.

It also responds to Melbourne Water's request not to be assigned the lead role for any actions in the Strategy. Melbourne Water actions are based on the Regional River Health Strategy and the Melbourne Water Water Plan coupled with their Management Unit Investment Plans. Melbourne Water broadly supports the intent of the MCES.

Goals and Vision of the Strategy

The principal users of the Merri Creek and Environs Strategy are the members of the MCMC, that is, the member Councils, Friends Groups and the MCMC Staff.

The overarching goals for the Merri Creek and Environs Strategy are drawn from the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy 2004-2009. These goals are:

- *Water goal* – Sustainable water use and healthy waterways, wetlands, estuaries, coasts and bays;
- *Land goal* – Healthy land uses appropriately and productively;
- *Biodiversity goal* – Health and enduring ecosystems with a diversity of habitats and native species; and
- *People goal* – The community valuing, understanding and celebrating the region's catchment assets and working to achieve sustainability.

The strategy states the following vision for the Merri catchment waterway corridors.

To achieve healthy living streams flowing through attractive environments which provide habitat for native animals and are valued by the community as peaceful, passive open space havens. To protect the natural and cultural features of the Merri catchment waterway corridors through sensitive management which will provide a lasting benefit for the community.

Strategy Structure and relevant actions for Darebin Council

Each chapter of the strategy includes background, discusses catchment issues and identifies objectives, targets and actions relating to targets. Where appropriate, objectives have been drawn from the Regional Catchment Strategy or relevant State Legislation or have been specifically developed for the Merri Creek and Environs Strategy.

Part E, Merri Creek and Environs Strategy Action Tables includes many actions relevant to Darebin and other MCMC members. These actions are set out in the following chapters – Aboriginal Heritage, Historical Heritage, Visual Character, Biodiversity and Habitat Networks, Land Management, Water Quality and Stream Health, Community Engagement, Recreation, Trails and Access, Public Safety, Planning, Management Coordination, Monitoring and Review Processes. Chapter 2.6 is relevant to Darebin and covers the reach from Mahoneys Road to the Yarra River. As such, the relevant pages with actions listed are included as an attachment to the report.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The Merri Creek and Environs Strategy forms an integral part of Darebin's environmental strategy and policy framework. The Merri Creek forms part of Darebin's boundary and is a major environmental and recreation asset for this community.

The new version of the strategy includes numerous changes resulting from the incorporation of many goals, objectives, targets and actions of the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy 2004-2009.

The Strategy deals with such issues as Aboriginal Heritage, Historical Heritage, Visual Character, Biodiversity and Habitat Networks, Land Management, Water Quality and Stream Health which fits with existing environmental policy at Darebin.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The conservation, rehabilitation and recreation development of the Merri Creek Corridor is aimed at the whole Darebin Community. The activities in the creek corridor are widely accepted by the community and strongly supported and encouraged by friends groups such as the Friends of Merri Creek.

The Strategy ensures issues of Aboriginal Heritage are specifically dealt with in the Strategy. The strategy also lists actions specifically targeted at particular sections of the community including, elderly, non English speaking background and people with disabilities.

The creek corridor is public open space and freely available to the community. The community is actively encouraged to use the corridor which is manifested by the provision of an all abilities shared path for the length of the creek corridor, which connects into the metropolitan trail network with local connections for local communities.

Other

Recreation

The Merri Creek Corridor is an integral part of Darebin's Open Space System. The shared path provides passive recreation opportunities for cyclists, pedestrians, dog walkers, roller bladders, pram walkers and so on. Many residents use informal paths, playgrounds, and are involved in other outdoor activities such as relaxation, photography, reading, and environmental learning and observation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council makes an annual contribution to the Merri Creek Management Committee. In 2008-2009 this was \$140,784. All other member Councils also contribute to the functioning of the Committee as outlined in the MCMC annual report. Council also includes works in the Merri Creek corridor in the annual capital works program. In the budget a sign system has been developed with neighbouring Councils with the signage being installed in May/June 2009.

All the actions outlined have included who would be in the lead role, key partners and an indication of priority and cost. All this is at a strategic level and the projects have not been developed or costed. It has been done as an indication only to give an idea of what the ramifications might be.

The action tables provide projects for consideration by different Council Branches. Many of these actions are already undertaken by Council or are embodied in strategies and policy of Council. Other projects require further investigation and development and may involve other member bodies commitment. These projects after scoping and development are then able to be considered as part of Council's future capital works program.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The Merri Creek Management Committee will be notified of Council's resolution. Copies of the Strategy will be forwarded to relevant Council Branches including Strategic and Statutory Planning, Bushland Management, Environmental Planning and Open Space Planning for use in their activities.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Merri Creek Management Committee 2009, Merri Creek and Environs Strategy (Second Ed) 2009-2014.

Appendix A – Executive Summary, Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 2009 – 2014

Appendix B – Action program listed in the Merri Creek and Environs Strategy 2009 – 2014

7.7 TRAFFIC SPEEDS – GILBERT ROAD PRESTON**MINUTE NO. 280****AUTHOR:** Transport Engineer – Daniel Neave**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 6 April 2009, Council resolved that:

“Council assess or evaluate the speed of traffic heading south along Gilbert Road before the Miller Street junction and consider options on addressing potential speed and safety issues”.

This report summarises the issues and recommends that Officers run the ‘Not So Fast’ driver education program and advocate for Police enforcement of the posted speed limit.

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) Council receive and note this report regarding traffic speeds in Gilbert Road Preston.
- (2) Officers run the ‘Not So Fast’ driver education program in Gilbert Road Preston between Bell Street and Miller Street.
- (3) Officers advocate for Police enforcement of the posted speed limit in Gilbert Road Preston.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana**SECONDED:** Cr. N. Katsis**THAT:**

- (1) Council receive and note this report regarding traffic speeds in Gilbert Road Preston.
- (2) Officers run the ‘Not So Fast’ driver education program in Gilbert Road Preston between Bell Street and Miller Street.
- (3) Officers advocate for Police enforcement of the posted speed limit in Gilbert Road Preston.
- (4) Council write to VicRoads to advocate for a 40km/h speed zone in the shopping centre at Gilbert Road/Miller Street Preston.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Gilbert Road is a local arterial road aligned in the north-south direction that carries approximately 8,300 vehicles per day. It includes tram route 112 between Miller Street and Regent Street. Gilbert Road continues past Bell Street, Murray Road, Regent Street up to Edwardes Street in Reservoir.

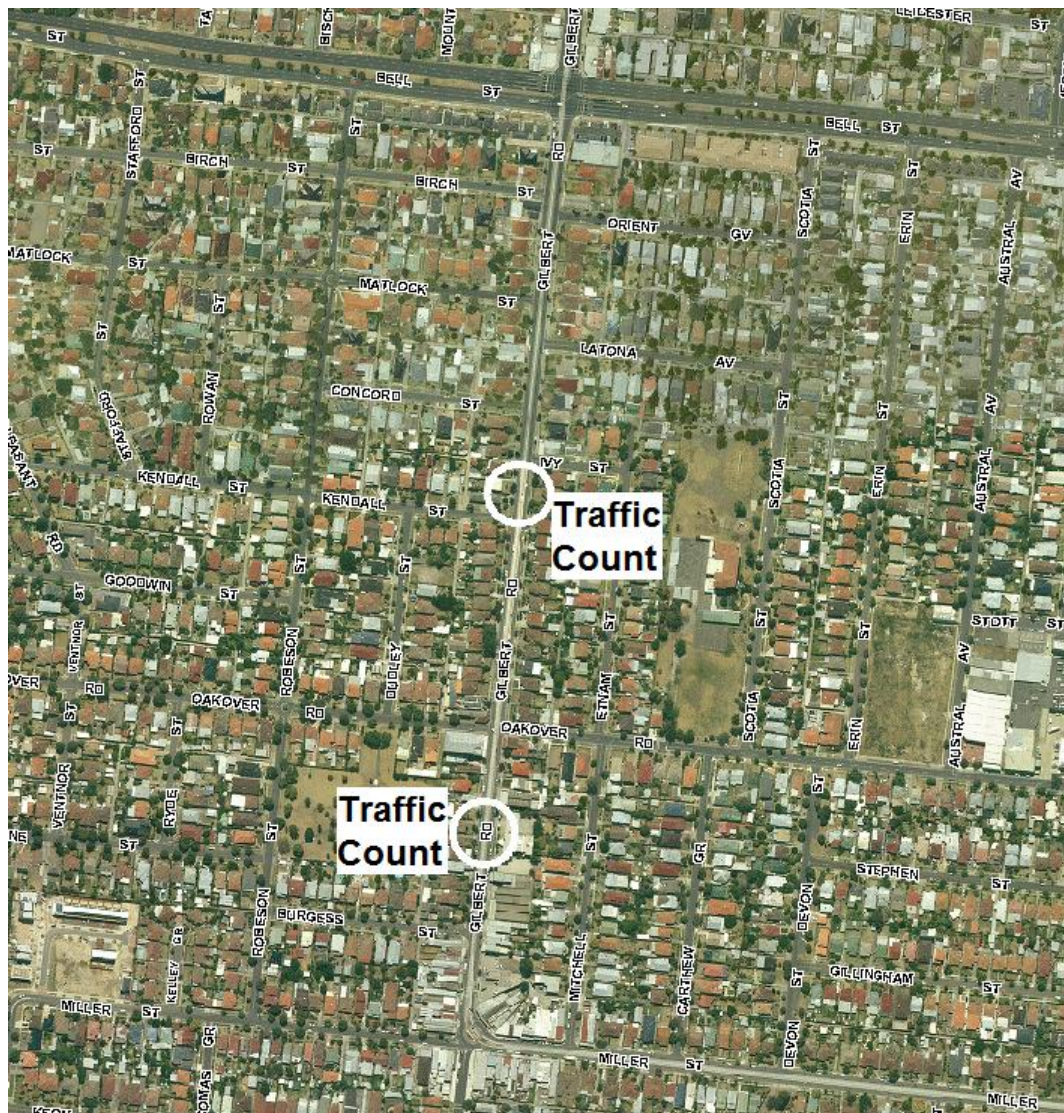


Figure 1: Gilbert Road Preston.

CORE ISSUES

To inform this report, traffic has been monitored in two locations along Gilbert Road Preston between Bell Street and Miller Street. One traffic count was located between Ivy Street and Kendall Street and the other located between Oakover Road and Burgess Street, refer to Figure 1.

Traffic Volume

Arterial roads, are expected to carry up to 12,000vpd (vehicles per day) and the volume of traffic measured recently along Gilbert Road was approximately 8,300vpd. The volume of traffic was relatively balanced between the northbound and the southbound directions, with volumes of 3950vpd and 4350vpd retrospectively.

Commercial vehicle volumes have also been measured and they indicate volumes of between 3% and 4% of all vehicles travelling along the street. This is seen as low compared to other arterial roads within Darebin, which typically experience 5% of traffic to be commercial vehicles.

Traffic Speed

The posted speed limit of Gilbert Road between Bell Street and Miller Street is 60 km/h. This is typical arterial roads with four lanes of traffic and a tram service.

Between Ivy Street and Kendall Street, the traffic data shows that the 85th percentile¹ speed of vehicles was 62.2 km/h, with southbound traffic measured at 62.5 km/h.

Between Oakover Road and Burgess Street, the traffic data shows that the 85th percentile¹ speed of vehicles was 56.6 km/h, with southbound traffic measured at 56.5 km/h.

As the traffic speeds are slightly higher than the posted speed limit, it is appropriate to undertake a driver education program to reduce speeds. The speed trailer is recommended to be deployed within three months.

Crash History

VicRoads CrashStats database shows in the last five (5) years there have been four (4) reported casualty crashes of which three (3) were serious injury.

- Pedestrian playing, lying or working on the carriageway
- Cross Traffic
- Vehicle strikes another vehicle while emerging from private property
- Vehicle strikes parked vehicle

As this length of carriageway has less than one casualty per year and the recorded casualties not forming a pattern, it is unlikely that this area will become a priority for future road safety treatments.

¹ The speed at which the majority of motorists utilise the street as it is known there is a minority section of the public that deliberately disregard the Road Rules.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There is minimal impact to the environment and sustainability from this report.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There is minimal impact to social inclusion and diversity from this report.

Other

Darebin Transport Strategy

There is minimal impact to the Darebin Transport Strategy from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil, within current budgets.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Educate motorists that use Gilbert Road by placing Council's speed advisory trailer between Ivy Street and Kendall Street for two weeks.

Request Victoria Police to enforce the posted speed limit.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Minutes 6 April 2009

7.8 TRANSPORT ISSUES ON ROADS NEXT TO RESERVOIR VIEWS PRIMARY SCHOOL**MINUTE NO. 281****AUTHOR:** Transport Engineer – Daniel Neave**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 4 May 2009, Council resolved that:

“Council conduct a Local Area Traffic Management Study in relation to the roads next to Reservoir Views Primary School at 110 St Vigeons Road Reservoir”.

This report summarises the issues and recommends that Officers run the ‘Not So Fast’ driver education program, advocate for Police enforcement of the posted speed limit, Council’s Traffic Enforcement Team patrol the area, program works to raise the school crossing in Hickford Street, and investigate a new raised new school crossing in St Vigeons Road.

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

- (1) Council receive and note this report relating to traffic issues on roads next to Reservoir Views Primary School.
- (2) Officers run the ‘Not So Fast’ driver education program on roads adjacent to Reservoir Views Primary School.
- (3) Officers advocate for Police enforcement of the 40km/h speed limit adjacent to Reservoir Views Primary School.
- (4) Officers undertake Traffic Enforcement of parking restrictions on roads adjacent to Reservoir Views Primary School.
- (5) Officers place Hickford Street Reservoir School Crossing on Capital Works program to be raised.
- (6) Officers continue to investigate a new raised school crossing in St Vigeons Road Reservoir.
- (7) Officers notify Reservoir Views Primary School of this report.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

Reservoir Views Primary School is a new name for the site previously known as Keon Park Primary School. Keon Park Primary School and Burbank Primary School merged in 2009 as the future plans for Burbank Primary School are for the site to become a Special Primary School. Figure 1 shows the Primary School and its street context.

Since the recent amalgamation there has been an increase in the volume of traffic and pedestrians to the school since 2003.



Figure 1: Reservoir Views Primary School Context.

CORE ISSUES

To inform this report, traffic has been monitored at three (3) locations adjacent to the school, refer to Figure 1.

- St Vigeons Road between Borrie Street and Argyle Street
- Borrie Street between St Vigeons Road and Hickford Street
- Hickford Street between Borrie Street and Argyle Street.

The results of the traffic surveys are shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Traffic speeds around Reservoir Views Primary School.

Count Location	2003 85% speed ¹ (km/h)	2009 85% speed ¹ (km/h)	2009 % of traffic over speed limit	2009 % of traffic >10km/h over speed limit
St Vigeons Road	60	57.3	79.0	42.1
Borrie Street	Not recorded	44.5	54.1	3.2
Hickford Street	63	53.6	79.5	32.9

Table 2: Traffic volumes around Reservoir Views Primary School.

	Volume of traffic (vehicles per day)	Volume of traffic (vehicles per day)	Change in volume of traffic from 2003 to 2009
Count Location	2003	2009	
St Vigeons Road	815	697	- 118
Borrie Street	Not recorded	4279	
Hickford Street	1405	1713	+ 308

Traffic Speed

The posted speed limit around the school is 40km/h at all times. As can be seen from Table 1 above, the posted speed limit is not being followed by the majority of motorists. The results from St Vigeons Road and Hickford Street are of biggest concern as approximately 80% of motorists travelling through the area are travelling above the speed limit with more than one in three exceeding the speed limit by more than 10km/h.

Traffic Volume

While the overall traffic volumes look to have increased by approximately 10% since 2003, the volume of traffic around Reservoir Views Primary School is at levels appropriate for the street network. St Vigeons Road and Hickford Street are local roads and as such are expected to carry up to 2,000 vehicles per day before concern is raised. As Borrie Street is a local collector, it is expected to carry up to 6,000 before concern is raised.

Crash History

VicRoads CrashStats database shows that there has been one recorded casualty crash in the last 13 years. The single casualty crash involved a vehicle striking a parked vehicle.

It is unlikely that this area will become a priority for future road safety treatments based upon Blackspot or Blacklength criteria.

Traffic Management

- Education

Council continue monitoring traffic around Reservoir Views Primary School on a periodic basis. The streets adjacent to the school to have run the 'Not So Fast' program within three months. The 'Not So Fast' program involves placing Council's speed advisory trailer in streets for two weeks with a

¹ The speed at which the majority of motorists utilise the street as it is known there is a minority section of the public that deliberately disregard the Road Rules.

pamphlet to the residents explaining the program. The program is designed to educate road users that the speed limit around schools is 40km/h.

- Enforcement

Police enforcement follows the speed advisory trailer and encourages all vehicles traverse the street at an appropriate speed.

- Engineering

In addition to the above Education and Enforcement programs, is it proposed to review the layout of the carriageway in a bid to design a carriageway with a lower nominal speed, in particular at the school crossing locations.

Hickford Street currently has a school crossing between Borrie Street and Banff Street. In order to reduce the speed of vehicles, increase the visibility of children at this location and increase pedestrian amenity, Officers propose to raise the existing school crossing.

St Vigeons Road runs along the south side of Reservoir Views Primary School with a pedestrian access gate approximately half way along the boundary. This area would be an ideal location for a new school crossing and Council Officers have already begun investigations. If this is suitable a raised school crossing would be installed.

Parking Controls

Due to the increased traffic to the area, the demands on on-street parking have also increased and Council has had reports of illegal parking behaviour (double parking and parking within No Stopping areas). This is able to be monitored with Council's Traffic Enforcement Team.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There is minimal impact to the environment and sustainability from this report.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There is minimal impact to social inclusion and diversity from this report.

Other

Darebin Transport Strategy

The Darebin Transport Strategy seeks to continue to improve the safety and perceived safety of Darebin's transport networks.

"A19 – Increase pedestrian and cycle priority over vehicles within activity centres and along local streets. Removing slip lanes, reducing traffic speeds and "tuning" traffic signals in pedestrians' favour can reduce barriers for pedestrians and cyclists, and create a more enjoyable and a safer environment."

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil, within current budgets.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Educate motorists that use the road network adjacent to Reservoir Views Primary School by placing Council's speed advisory trailer in the 40 km/h speed limit zones.

Advocate for Police enforcement of speed limits in this area.

Traffic Enforcement to patrol around the school.

Program works to raise the existing school crossing in Hickford Street Reservoir.

Continue the investigation of a new raised school crossing in St Vigeons Road Reservoir.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Minutes 4 May 2009.

7.9 RELOCATION OF TRAM STOP – PLENTY ROAD PRESTON**MINUTE NO. 282****AUTHOR:** Transport Engineer – Daniel Neave**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 18 May 2009, Council resolved that:

“Council Officers discuss with relevant authorities the feasibility and possibility of relocating the current tram stop located at the Tram Depot situated on Plenty Road Preston. A report back to Council within two months should address alternative positioning, cost and other logistical requirements”.

This report summarises the issues and recommends that Officers take this request to the Tram Route 86 Improvement Project Working Group for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) Council receive and note this report.
- (2) The Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project Working Group discuss the possibility of relocating the tram stop outside the Preston Depot on Plenty Road Preston.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. N. Katsis
SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan**THAT:**

- (1) Council receive and note this report.
- (2) The Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project Working Group discuss the possibility of relocating the tram stop outside the Preston Depot on Plenty Road Preston.
- (3) A report be provided from the relevant authority for reference by the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project Working Group that outlines and encompasses factual data and the breakdown of vehicles fined and revenue raised at this intersection.
- (4) Council request additional information in relation to the increased usage of the Preston Tramways Depot.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

The Preston Depot for trams is located approximately 100 metres north of Bell Street on Plenty Road. This depot is primarily used as a logistical centre, where drivers are regularly changed at this location and tram services are either started, ended or put on hold until such time they are back on schedule.

Plenty Road north of Bell Street is a declared main road and therefore VicRoads is the Responsible Road Authority. Public Transport stops are the responsibility of the Department of Transport and when the issue of relocating public transport stops arises, Council can only request stops be relocated. The Department of Transport will generally rely on feedback from the public transport operator when these issues arise.

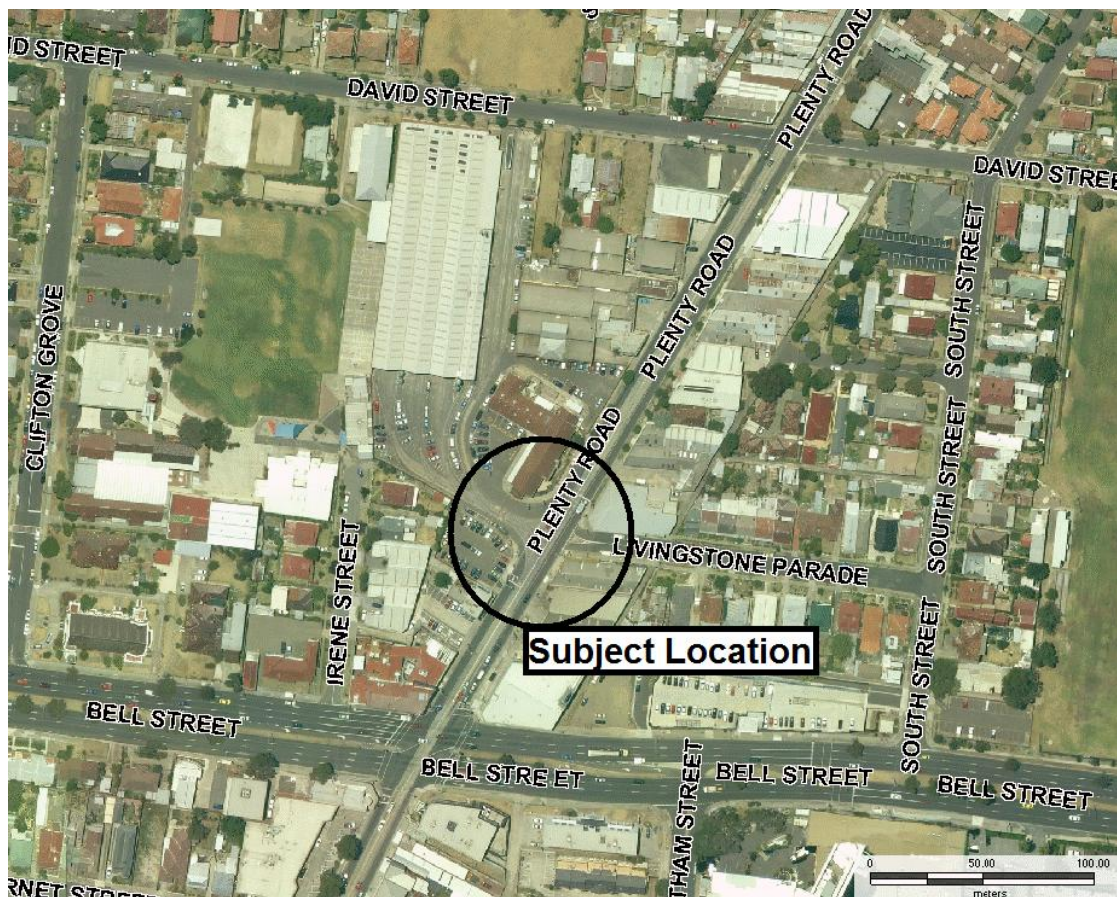


Figure 1: Plenty Road Preston Tram Depot.

CORE ISSUES

Council is currently working with Yarra Trams, Department of Transport and VicRoads to improve the service of Tram Route 86 along High Street Northcote and Thornbury, and Plenty Road Preston and Reservoir. This project is currently in a re-work phase after the initial consultation identified issues with the initial proposal. The project is programmed for a second round of consultation in October and November 2009.

Alternative Locations

Discussions with Yarra Trams have advised this proposal has already been discussed within their organisation due to the occurrences where traffic backing up behind trams stopped at this location, cause traffic delays at the intersection of Bell Street and Plenty Road. Yarra Trams have advised that this issue was thoroughly investigated recently and the outcome was found that the current location is the most appropriate. As trams enter and leave the network at this location, there is a set of auto-points. Regardless if this location was a tram stop or not, trams would continue to stop here while the auto-points change the track direction. During Yarra Trams investigation they also found safety issues of having a stop near this area as vehicle drivers are not likely to expect trams stopping for passengers so close to another location where trams already stop.

Cost

Yarra Trams and the Department of Transport have both advised they do not have funding for tram stop relocations.

Other Logistical Requirements

Discussions with stakeholders have been positive, in that they are willing to investigate any concern Council may have, and if the justification outweighs the negative impacts, then it may be feasible or possible to relocate this stop.

Officer's Recommendation

The issue of the relocation is clearly complex and it cannot be resolved within a short timeframe. It is recommended that the issue be referred to the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project Working Group for further investigation and negotiation with stakeholders.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There is minimal impact to the environment and sustainability from this report.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There is minimal impact to social inclusion and diversity from this report.

Other

Darebin Transport Strategy

There is minimal impact to the Darebin Transport Strategy from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil, within current budgets.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Officers take this request to the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project Working Group for consideration.

7.10 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND 'GENERAL BUSINESS' ITEMS OUTSTANDING**MINUTE NO. 283****AUTHOR:** Council Business Coordinator – Ron Downes**MANAGER:** General Manager Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

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

CONSULTATION:

Executive Management Team

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

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

CARRIED

REPORT

CORE ISSUES

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

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

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

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The next status report will be submitted to Council at its meeting on 7 September 2009.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Minutes of previous meetings of the Council.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar, disclosed a conflict of interest in the following matter classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association and describing the nature of the interest as that her husband is employed by Senator the Honourable Stephen Conroy.

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar, left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 8.35pm.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIRPERSON

In the absence of the Mayor, Cr. Asmar, the Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for the position of Acting Chairperson of the meeting.

Cr. Laurence was nominated by Cr. Fontana, and seconded by Cr. Katsis, and there being no further nominations, was appointed Acting Chairperson of the meeting.

Cr. Laurence assumed the Chair.

9.1 CHANNEL 31 – DIGITAL BROADCASTING**MINUTE NO. 284**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council write to the Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator the Honourable Stephen Conroy and local Federal Members of Parliament, urging them to give good support to Channel 31 with the cost associated with upgrading to digital broadcasting.

Council write to other Councils, the Municipal Association of Victoria, the Victorian Local Governance Association, the media, and other appropriate organisations.

CARRIED

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair – 8.43pm.

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

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

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:

- 10.1 Tender for the Reconstruction of Mansfield Street, Northcote – CT 0922
- 10.2 Tender (CT 0691) – Annual Supply of Minor Civic Works 2008-2011

CARRIED

The Council meeting was closed to members of the public at 8.44pm.

The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 10.1 (Tender for the Reconstruction of Mansfield Street, Northcote – CT 0922) and Report Item 10.2 (Tender (CT 0691) – Annual Supply of Minor Civic Works 2008-2011) which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 30 July 2009.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

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

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

CARRIED

The Council meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 8.55pm.

CONFIDENTIAL**10.1 TENDER FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MANSFIELD STREET, NORTHCOTE – CT 0922****MINUTE NO. 285****AUTHOR: Manager Capital Works – Graeme Houlden****MANAGER: General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Budget allocation for this project is \$300,000.00 (excl GST) from the 2009/2010 Capital Works budget. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$ 281,991.00 (excl GST).****SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the reconstruction of Mansfield Street, Northcote, from Newcastle Street to Victoria Road. This work involves Concrete kerb and bluestone pitcher channel, drainage works and pavement works.

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

CONSULTATION:

Ward Councillors (Concept Plan)
Residents of Mansfield Street (Concept Plan)
General Manager Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn
Manager Open Space Planning - Allan Wicks
Manager Transportation Planning - Daniel Kollmorgan
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing - David Cecala

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang
SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) *The tender of J & C Constructions Pty Ltd for the Reconstruction of Mansfield Street, Thornbury, (CT 0922) for an amount of \$288,190.10 (including GST) be accepted.*
- (2) *Council sign and seal the contract documents.*
- (3) *All tenderers be advised accordingly.”*

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**10.2 TENDER (CT 0691) – ANNUAL SUPPLY OF MINOR CIVIL WORKS 2008-2011****MINUTE NO. 286****AUTHOR: Manager Capital Works – Graeme Houlden****MANAGER: General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: The amount spent under this contract is approximately \$1,200,000 (excl GST) per year from the 2009-2011 Capital Works budgets which includes footpath grinding works of approx. \$200,000 (excl GST) per year.****SUMMARY:**

Tenders were called for the provision of services for “Annual Minor Civil Works for the period 2008-2011” with an initial one year period (ending June, 2009) with the option by Council of a two year extension to the contract. Generally, civil works may include drainage, footpath, traffic management works or plant and labour hire as required. These works are generally smaller type projects that are better suited to this type of contract.

This tender commenced in the 2008-2009 financial year and is now able to be renewed for the remaining two years in accordance with the performance requirements of the contract.

As the expenditure from this tender will exceed the delegation level the tenders are now required to be approved by Council.

This report recommends that Part A of the contract with Alfa Constructions Pty Ltd, Franco Paving Pty Ltd, Petrolo Constructions Pty Ltd and United Roads Pty Ltd and Part B of the contract with All Suburbs Path Grinding and Franco Paving Pty Ltd be extended for a further two years.

CONSULTATION:

General Manager Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn
Manager Capital Works – Graeme Houlden
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing – David Cecala
Major Projects Officer – Paul Marino

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang
SECONDED: Cr. B. Morgan

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) *The contracts of Alfa Constructions Pty Ltd, Franco Paving Pty Ltd, Petrolo Constructions Pty Ltd, and United Road Pty Ltd for CT 0691(Part A) - Annual Supply of Minor Civil Works, be extended for the period ending 30 June 2011.*
- (2) *The contracts of All Suburbs Path Grinding and Franco Paving Pty Ltd, for CT 0691(Part B) - Annual Supply of Minor Civil Works, be extended for the period ending 30 June 2011.*
- (3) *Council sign and seal the contract documents.*
- (4) *The contractors be advised accordingly.”*

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

CARRIED

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.