



# **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**MONDAY, 6 JULY 2009**

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RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 9 JULY 2009

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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE  
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,  
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 6 JULY 2009**

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**THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.01 P.M.**

**1. PRESENT**

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  
Michael Ballock – Acting General Manager City Development  
Libby Hynes – General Manager Environment and Amenity  
Jeff Saker – General Manager City Services  
Jan Black – General Manager Communities and Culture  
Pradeep Agrawal – Acting General Manager Corporate Services  
Daniel Kollmorgen – Acting General Manager Community Assets and Leisure  
Nick Mazzarella – Manager Major Projects  
Anita Craven – Acting Manager Asset Strategy (part of the meeting)  
Jennifer Paterson – Property Manager (part of the meeting)  
Sally Curran – Acting Manager Customer and Civic Services  
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

**2. APOLOGIES**

Nil

### 3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Chiang disclosed conflicts of interest in Report No. 7.2 (Reports of Standing Committees – Community Grants Committee) and Report No. 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups) – see Pages 9 and 67.

Cr. Tsitas disclosed a conflict of interest in Report No. 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups) – see Page 67.

Cr. Katsis disclosed conflicts of interest in Report No. 11.4 (Preston Civic Precinct – Property Matter) and Report No. 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups) – see Pages 65 and 67.

The Mayor, Cr. Asmar, disclosed a conflict of interest in Report No. 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups) – see Page 66.

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

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Morgan

**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Tsitas

**THAT** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

**CARRIED**

#### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. B. Morgan

**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Tsitas

**THAT** the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 29 June 2009 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

**CARRIED**

### SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

**MOVED:** Cr. T. Laurence

**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Chiang

**THAT** Standing Orders be suspended to enable Dr. Alf Bamblett to address the meeting  
- 7.04pm

**CARRIED**

The Mayor, Cr Asmar acknowledged that we are on traditional lands of the Wurundjeri tribe of the Kulin Nation, and offered our respects to the elders of these traditional lands and through them to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Mayor then introduced the following people involved with NAIDOC Week 2009 to the meeting:

- Phil Cooper – Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council (DATSICC) Chair and Chair of NAIDOC
- Dr Alf Bamblett – DATSICC member
- Deb Walsh – DATSICC member
- Alan Brown – DATSICC member
- Jasmine Wright - Miss NAIDOC
- Gordon Bamblett - Mr NAIDOC
- Sarah Bamblett – NAIDOC Coordinator
- Troy Austin – Coordinator, Indigenous Policy and Programs
- Andrew Jackomos – Patron NAIDOC.

The Mayor, Cr Asmar, invited Dr Bamblett to address the meeting.

Dr Bamblett explained the origins of NAIDOC Week which celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Mayor, Cr Asmar, thanked Dr Bamblett for his address.

<b>RESUMPTION OF STANDING ORDERS</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Chiang

**THAT** Standing Orders be resumed - 7.10pm

**CARRIED**

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

### **MINUTE NO. 235**

#### **5.1 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS**

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

- Meetings with local constituents.

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

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

- Meetings with local residents regarding various traffic related issues in Reservoir.
- East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal meeting.
- Meetings relating to issues involving international students.
- Meeting with Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship to discuss issues relating to international students.
- Meeting with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Hon Bob Cameron and Parminder Singh Dhindsa, Public Works Minister from Punjab, India to discuss issues relating to international students.
- Meetings with local students regarding arrangements for 'Harmony Day' on 12 July 2009.
- Meeting with the Chief Commissioner of Police, Simon Overland, along with representatives of a number of leading Indian organisations in Melbourne.
- Meetings with members of the Chinese community to hear an update on Court proceedings following the murder in January 2008 of Victorian University researcher, Dr. Cao Zhongjun.

Cr Laurence also highlighted the announcement by the Prime Minister of a \$50,000 grant to Darebin Council to help international students engage with the local community to benefit both students and the community.

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

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

- Northern Bullants Football Club business breakfast meeting.
- National General Assembly of Local Government Conference in Canberra.
- Opening of new Clubrooms for Preston Bullants Junior Football Club at H.P. Zwar Reserve.
- Preston Business Advisory Committee meeting.
- Community Grants Committee meeting.
- Meeting with a journalist from The Age to provide a brief on the Tram Route 86 Corridor Project and Council's travel plans and program .
- Visit to West Preston–Lakeside Football Club.
- Meetings with local residents.

**5.4 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSIS**

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

- Australian Greek Ex-Servicemen's Elderly Seniors Club Multicultural Dance.
- Student Award Presentations – World Lebanese Cultural Union of Australia.
- 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government Conference in Canberra.
- Attending to various issues raised by residents.

**5.5 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG**

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

- Meeting with representatives from Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club.
- Farewell function for retiring General Manager City Development, Kevin Breen.

**5.6 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY**

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

- State Government funding announcement of \$500,000 towards the expansion of the Clifton Street Children's Centre in Northcote.
- Meeting with various residents of Bridge Street/Union Street Northcote regarding proposed development works at Bell Primary School.
- 2009 NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony.

Cr McCarthy also informed Council that the Dalai Lama of Tibet is celebrating his birthday today.

**5.7 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO**

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

- Interfaith Council meeting.
- Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre Board meeting.
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council meeting.
- Darebin Enterprise Centre meeting.
- Opening of new Clubrooms for Preston Bullants Junior Football Club at H.P. Zwar Reserve.
- Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club Information Night.
- 2009 NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony.

**5.8 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN**

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

- 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government Conference in Canberra.
- Meetings with representatives of 'Bell Community Action' group regarding proposed development works at Bell Primary School.



- Meetings with local residents to discuss issues relating to public drinking outside Preston City Oval and ALDI Supermarket.
- Meeting with representatives from Preston Bullants Junior Football Club.
- Football match involving Reservoir Football Club at Crispe Park.
- Football match involving West Preston–Lakeside Football Club at J.E. Moore Park.

**5.9 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR DIANA ASMAR**

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

- 2009 National General Assembly of Local Government Conference in Canberra.
- Furlan Italian Social Club 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary celebrations.
- Community Grants Committee meeting.
- 2009 NAIDOC Week flag raising ceremony.
- Student Award Presentation – World Lebanese Cultural Union of Australia.
- Meetings with local residents and community leaders.

The Mayor, Cr Asmar, also commended the Federal Government for providing a \$50,000 grant to Darebin City Council to help international students engage with the Darebin community.

## 6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

### MINUTE NO. 236

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

The following questions were submitted:

- Roderick Greig of West Preston, on behalf of the 'Bell Community Action' group, asked a question about Council action to assist resident opposition to the location of new proposed building structures at Bell Primary School and tabled a 'petition' signed by various local residents in opposition to the location proposed. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr Asmar, who in accepting the 'petition' tabled, indicated that Council has previously written to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Justin Madden MP expressing opposition, concern and dissatisfaction with Amendment VC56, and that the matter would be followed up as it was understood no reply has yet been received.
- John Nugent of Epping asked if he could table his written report on Report No. 8.1 to this meeting of Council (Lighting Project – Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club) deferred by Council from the previous meeting on 15 June 2009. The Mayor, Cr Asmar, accepted the information tabled and Cr Laurence indicated that he proposed moving a Motion under 'General Business' later in the meeting that the information tabled be addressed in a subsequent related report to be submitted to Council.
- Roderick Greig of West Preston, on behalf of the 'Bell Community Action' group, asked if Council could assist residents opposed to the location of proposed new building structures at Bell Primary School by communicating their concerns to Local Members of Parliament, the Hon. Martin Ferguson MP and Robin Scott MP. The Mayor, Cr Asmar, indicated that a copy of Council's earlier letter to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Justin Madden MP, expressing Council's opposition to Amendment VC56 would be forwarded to the Local Members.

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

**7. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES****7.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE****MINUTE NO. 237**

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

A meeting of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee was held on 29 June 2009. A summary report of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A** to this report. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated to Councillors.

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana  
**SECONDED:** Cr. G. Greco

**THAT** the Report of the Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting held on 29 June 2009 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

**CARRIED**

*Cr Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in the following matter classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest because of conflicting duty and describing the nature of the interest as that he is the President of the Northern Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association Inc (NEMCA), one of the applicant organisations. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.40pm*

**7.2****COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE****MINUTE NO. 238**

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

A meeting of the Community Grants Committee was held on 30 June 2009. A summary report of the meeting is attached as **Appendix A** to this report. The minutes of the meeting, incorporating the reports considered by the Committee, have been circulated to Councillors.

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana  
**SECONDED:** Cr. T. Laurence

**THAT** the Report of the Community Grants Committee meeting held on 30 June 2009 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

**CARRIED**

*Cr Chiang returned to the meeting – 7.44pm*

## 8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 8.1 LIGHTING PROJECT - KEON PARK STARS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

MINUTE NO. 239

**AUTHOR:** Manager, Leisure Services - Janice Lane

**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn

#### **BUDGET**

**IMPLICATIONS:** Nil

#### **SUMMARY:**

**At its meeting on 15 June 2009, Council resolved that consideration of this report be deferred until this meeting of Council.**

This report summarises the Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) Community Facility Funding program and responds to the questions raised by Council at its meeting on 18 May 2009. The focus of this report is in relation to the Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club and their request for competition lights at JC Donath Reserve.

The Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club (the club) has been lobbying for competition lights at JC Donath Reserve, Oval 1 for over five years. The Club has nine registered junior teams and one Under 19 football team. The Council submitted applications to SRV in years 2004, 2005 and 2006. All of these applications have been unsuccessful as they have not met the State Government funding criteria. In 2008/2009, Council also submitted an application for competition lights at Bill Lawry Oval to benefit the Northcote Park Football Club and Northcote Cricket Club. Council is awaiting a formal outcome from the State Government regarding this grant.

Council has more than 120 sporting clubs utilising 30 pavilions and approximately 90 playing fields across the municipality. Council plays a major role in the provision of sport through the community facilities and assets provided for use to these clubs.

It is too early to recommend a funding application for competition lights at JC Donath Reserve now when the SRV 2009/2010 funding guidelines have not been received and other groups have not had the same opportunity to apply. To progress one application over other applicants will create an unequitable situation for our broader community. In addition, work around a new Leisure Strategy will commence in July 2009. Whilst it is too early to state what the recommendations for this project will be, resource allocation for competition lights at our sports ovals may not be considered a high priority given the capital investment required.

This report also responds to other questions raised at the Council meeting held on 18 May 2009.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club  
Northern Football League

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council

- (1) Note this report.
- (2) In keeping with past practice, invite all sporting clubs to submit applications for Sport and Recreation Victoria – Community Facility Funding program in August/September 2009 for funding in the 2010/2011 financial year.
- (3) Defer any funding consideration for competition lights at any sporting oval until after the Darebin Leisure Strategy has been completed.
- (4) Refer the issue of the provision of competition lighting at sporting ovals to the development of the new Darebin Leisure Strategy to validate the needs and costs of the infrastructure as compared with other priorities.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

**THAT** Council defer this report and consider this item when Council has more information regarding the recently announced \$271,000 in Federal stimulus funding.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

At the Council meeting held on 18 May 2009, Council requested a further report on the proposed lighting project for the Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club (the Club).

**At its meeting on 15 June 2009, Council resolved that consideration of this report be deferred until this meeting of Council.**

Specifically, Council requested that officers report back to Council within 4 weeks with an outline of a funding submission for Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) sports grants later this year and that the report should detail:

- Darebin Council's long standing support for the Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club's light project.
- The high levels of socio-economic disadvantage in the area.
- The importance of anchoring Under (U) 19 games to secure a strong pathway for all junior teams and the viability of the Keon Park club.

- The critical danger of kids losing access to Australian Rules Football in this corner of Darebin without this project.
- The initial cost estimate as supplied by the Club.
- Details of capital works funding to Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club over the past 10 years.

## CORE ISSUES

### **Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) funding - Community Facility Funding program**

The SRV Community Facility Funding program provides opportunities for both Council and community groups to receive funds that further participation in sport and recreation. The funding guidelines are made available in September/October each year and community groups can make an application to Council first. The grant applications are then prioritised and forwarded to the State Government for consideration. SRV allows Councils to submit a funding application for one aquatic or major project (over \$200,000) and three minor projects (under \$200,000) on an annual basis. The funding provided by SRV needs to be matched by Council through its capital funding program. The grants are competitive and the objectives of the program are to:

- Respond to identified community need and issue
- Increase or in certain cases maintain participation in sport and recreation
- Is supported by other local, sub-regional or regional planning studies.
- Includes innovative, sustainable and environmentally friendly project components

The SRV funding applicants are then assessed on the basis of meeting the above criteria along with our own criteria. Darebin City Council criteria include:

- Project is informed by a strategic sporting document ie. Sport in the North
- Increases participation of people from our disadvantaged communities ie. people with disabilities, Culturally and Linguistically diverse and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Addresses any equity issues around Council funding received by recipients in the past ie. has Council funds spent on a particular group and how does this compare with other applicants.

These grants are highly sought after and contested. Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club has submitted applications to Council to install lights for night-time matches to be played at Donath Reserve on five occasions. On three occasions, the Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club application has been forwarded to SRV. The application has been unsuccessful on each of these occasions.

Each year new applications from community groups emerge along with Council's own priority for supporting and providing for sport and recreation in the City of Darebin. For example, Council has been successful with applications for funding Reservoir and Northcote Leisure Centre developments, the implementation of master plans for district parks such as HP Zwar Reserve and Edwardes Lake Park, re-surfacing of the athletics track at Edwardes Park Lake and tennis facility upgrade at Lakeside Tennis Club. These grants provide opportunities for all our community groups to develop proposals that meet their business planning objectives and to be involved in community development. The SRV funding program is the one major funding source for sport and recreation opportunities across the State and therefore careful planning and priority is needed to ensure funding success.

### **Socio-economic status of Reservoir/Keon Park**

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The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines the Index of Socio-Economic Disadvantage as a general indicator that summarises the economic and social resources of people and households within an area.

According to the 2006 SEIFA Preliminary Report, Darebin ranks as the fifth most disadvantaged municipality out of the 31 municipalities in metropolitan Melbourne. However, it is worth noting that there are differences between the northern and southern end of the municipality with the northern end reporting higher levels of socio-economic disadvantage than the southern end.

Keon Park is located in the Reservoir East precinct as identified by Strategic Planning. This precinct is located in the northern part of Darebin and covers 15.90 square kilometres. This precinct is mostly residential in nature and has a population of 23,000 residents. This precinct has a larger proportion of residents aged 17 years and under, and over 50 years than does the City of Darebin as a whole. Reservoir East is also characterised by its significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population and proportionally the Indigenous population makes up 1.2 per cent of Reservoir East populations. (Figures based on Local Area Precinct Profile – Reservoir East, 2002).

In providing an analysis of open space provision in the Reservoir East area, the criteria used to assess open space are: quantity of open space, distribution throughout the municipality and size of open space. According to Darebin's Open Space Strategy 2007 – 2017, the Reservoir East precinct, open space in this area meets or exceeds this criteria. Reservoir East has good overall coverage of neighbourhood parks within 500 metres walkability distance. Upgrades have occurred in several parks including J C Donath Reserve. A Master plan for JC Donath Reserve was adopted in 1998.

A more detailed study would need to be developed to ascertain the link between socio-economic status and the link between availability and prevalence of sport and recreation opportunities. This more detailed analysis is not included as part of the scope of this report.

### **Australian Rules Football in Darebin**

The code of Australian Rules Football has been a traditional sport played in the City of Darebin reflecting the social demographic of the municipality. However, over the past decade there has been a change of sporting patterns reflecting new interests and community diversity. It is difficult to pinpoint one particular reason why there may be changing patterns in Australian Rules Football participation rates. However, generally speaking it is fair to say our current Darebin clubs are strong entities. In a 9 year period there has been one loss of an Australian Rules Football Club (Kingsbury Football Club) at John Hall Reserve.

Current statistics provided through the Northern Football League have established the following club information:

Division 1 – 10 clubs, 9 with U19 teams.

Division 2 – 14 clubs, 11 with U19 teams.

Darebin based clubs that have U19 teams are West Preston Lakeside FC at Moore Park, Northcote Park FC at Bill Lawry Oval and Keon Park Stars Junior FC. Keon Park Stars Junior FC are the only Junior club in Darebin that has an U19 team. As a comparison of club teams in the local area, the West Preston Lakeside FC based at JE Moore Park has one U19, two U17, ten Juniors and Auskick program. It is a strong club providing a pathway for junior players to expand into a Senior competition if desired.

The fluctuation with participation numbers in Australian Rules Football is often attributed to a number of factors. These include:

- The health and strength of the Club Committee and club culture.



- The number of clubs (Senior and Junior) within a confined catchment area and whether close proximity results in less players at one club than another.
- The level of demographic change and competition to spend the discretionary leisure dollar within family and social groups.

The Northern Football League has stated that they would like to establish a night-time U19 competition for their clubs. However, there is a lack of suitable venues and the only ground that can provide for night-time competition is located in Montmorency. In addition, there has been no attempt made by the Northern Football League to determine what the need and /or demand is for U19 night-time competition.

At the moment the U19 competition is played on Saturday mornings and if appropriate venues were made available, there is no guarantee that it would result in greater participation levels. Without detailed analysis of the viability of U19 night-time competition, it is difficult to draw conclusive evidence there is a real need or desire for this type of competition. A change from day-time competition (Saturday mornings) to night-time competition (Friday night) may not suit everyone and may result in less participation than more. In addition, there is no evidence to suggest that without competition lights at JC Donath Reserve, that the club will be in danger of young people losing access to Australian Rules Football in this area of Darebin.

#### **Competition lights and cost at JC Donath Reserve**

As part of the discussions with the club over the past 6 months, the club has requested that lights be provided at 200 lux luminaire. According to the Australian Standards provided through the football and netball lighting guide produced by the Department of Planning and Community Development, the lighting standard for competition/match practice should be delivered at 200 lux. In addition, Australian Standards also provide that the light poles should be 25-30 metres high to deliver the expected lighting standard and to provide uniformity across the oval.

The club has written to officers and provided a scope of works in March 2009 for meeting their request. The scope of the competition lights proposal included:

- Preparatory work associated with power upgrade
- Supply and installation of 4 x 25m light poles
- Supply and installation of 7 light fittings per pole
- Supply of power to the scoreboard.

A quotation for the above works has been received and the cost estimate is \$301,000 (excluding GST). The club has suggested that they could provide \$9,091 as part-contribution towards this project.

#### **Sport in the North Strategy**

Sporting facility provision and improvements is guided by Council's Sport in the North Strategy. Under this system, Council's sporting facilities are rated according to the facilities provided. JC Donath Reserve is rated as a Grade 2 facility. The majority of our grounds are rated as Grade 2 as they are designed for middle and senior grade competition.

There are no grounds in Darebin that have lights suitable for playing night-time competition for Australian Rules Football. Due to the high cost of providing competition lights, the Sport in the North Strategy gives direction that should Council install any competition lights it should occur at the Grade 1 facilities ie. Preston City Oval and Bill Lawry Oval.

In the new financial year of 2009/2010, it is proposed to provide a new Leisure Strategy that will guide Council in its decision making around the provision of sport and recreation in Darebin. A new Leisure Strategy will enable Council to prioritise our sport and recreation needs into the future and assist us in determining the need and demand for competition lights for any sporting activity.

### **Council investment for Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club**

A range of improvements have been made to facilities used by the Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club over a number of years. In 1998, the Council adopted the Donath Reserve Master Plan which resulted in a number of improvements. A financial estimate of these works amount to around \$500,000 with the largest financial investment relating to the pavilion expansion at \$240,000.

Improvements include:

- Installation of coaches boxes
- Installation of seating
- Training light upgrades
- Training light repairs
- General landscaping improvements (not specific to the club)
- Redevelopment of the pavilion utilised by the club
- Capital contribution to upgrading training lights
- Contribution to the design for a scorer's box
- Discretionary operating grant to the Club.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

If competition lights are provided at any of our sporting venues, there will be an increase in greenhouse gas emission. Due diligence around this aspect of the project has not been conducted, however, according to our Climate Action Change Plan June 2007 to 2010, street lighting is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases. The key principles that drive our Climate Change Action Plan are to reduce green house emissions, conserve energy and provide energy efficiency. Increased electrical use will have a greater impact on both utility costs and a greater environmental impact.

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

Australian Rules Football competition and sport in general provides opportunities for social inclusion and diversity. Sport by its nature is often a mechanism for social engagement and community building. The Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club provides opportunities for young people to play sport and for adults to engage in club operations.

### **Other**

Under Sports in the North, provision for night matches is theoretically only provided at Grade 1 facilities ie. Bill Lawry Oval and Preston City Oval due to the high cost of providing this infrastructure. Grade 1 facilities are made available for elite matches and competition. Council has provided Preston Oval and Northcote Park to this standard for Australian Rules Football. Whilst the

facilities used by Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club meet Grade 2 requirements, the improvements proposed are in keeping with a Grade 1 facility. Council's current sporting strategy does not provide for the development of further Grade 1 facilities within the municipality.

Given Council's policy framework and the development of new Leisure Strategy in 2009/2010, the Council expenditure for competition lights cannot be justified at this time.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

To report back to the Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club following Council's resolution.

To review current sports infrastructure and the provision and/or need for competition lights as part of the development of a new Leisure Strategy for the City of Darebin.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Climate Change Action Plan – June 2007 to June 2010  
Sport in the North – 1999 by Jeavons and Jeavons.

**8.2 WATER HARVESTING POTENTIAL AT DOLE RESERVE****MINUTE NO. 240****AUTHOR:** Sports Development Coordinator - Andrew McHugh**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** No allocation has been provided in the 2009/2010 budget**SUMMARY:**

At its meeting held on 16 March 2009, Council resolved that a report be submitted on the water harvesting potential of the roof on the Dole Avenue Reservoir Stadium and any information the officers have in relation to State or Federal funding options for such a project.

**CONSULTATION:**

Environmental Strategy Unit

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

**THAT** water harvesting at Dole Reserve be considered as part of the rainwater harvesting strategy across the municipality to be completed by the Environmental Strategy Unit in the 2009/2010 financial year.

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

At its meeting held on 16 March 2009, Council resolved that a report be submitted on the water harvesting potential of the roof on the Dole Avenue Reservoir Stadium and any information the officers have in relation to State or Federal funding options for such a project.

Dole Reserve is a 5ha park consisting of an oval, open space, and community hall including basketball stadium. It is a grade 2 facility in accordance with the ground ratings system in the sportsground fees and charges policy. Dole Reserve is located on the corner of Cheddar Road and Dole Avenue Reservoir, in the La Trobe Ward, and is a multi use facility with the following arrangements:

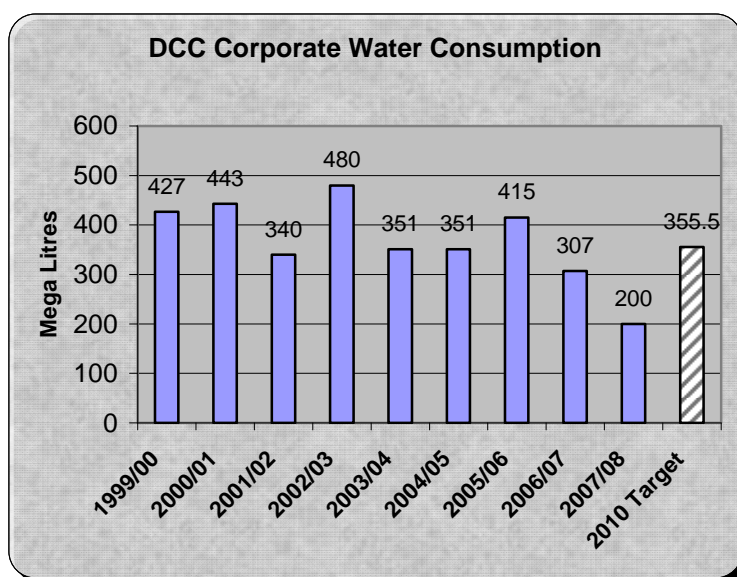
**Basketball stadium** - licenced to Keon Park Youth Club**Hall for hire** - bookings are managed by Keon Park Youth Club

**Soccer/cricket ground** - booked on a seasonal basis (winter 2009 Singh Sabha sports club)

**Open space (adjacent to soccer/cricket ground)** - licenced to Step Into Life personal training

Dole Reserve also attracts a range of community use such as dog walkers, informal ball games, informal exercise and some school use. The soccer/cricket ground has not been irrigated for the past three years due to the permanent water restrictions.

Council has a Sustainable Water Use Plan, which sets a target of a 25% reduction of the total potable water consumed by Council operations by 2010 from the benchmark year in 1999/2000. The total Council water use in the benchmark year of 1999/2000 was 427ML. At the end of 2007/2008 Council’s total water consumption was down to 200ML, well below the 2010 target of 355.5ML. The graph below highlights the reduction in water consumption per year.



The 1999/2000 financial year was selected as the benchmark year as it was the last year before the onset of the current drought conditions and water restrictions. The target year of 2010 has been set in accord with the State Government’s *White Paper: Our Water Our Future*. It is planned that varying consumption reductions will be made across all of Council’s land use types and this target is the aggregate of those individual reductions.

**CORE ISSUES**

The installation of rainwater harvesting systems are most beneficial where the water is used for year-round uses such as toilet flushing rather than solely for intermittent or seasonal uses such as irrigation. The most appropriate approach for any given site will be determined by taking into consideration resource efficiency principles, the site use, the condition of existing equipment, any upgrade works already planned for the property and any other site specific issues.

Last year the water use within the Dole Reserve stadium was approximately 53,000 litres. When the oval was last irrigated, in 2005/2006, the water use was over 1,025,000 litres. It is estimated that harvesting rainwater from the stadium roof could result in up to 300,000 litres being harvested based on current rainfall and dependant on tank capacity. In reality, it may not be possible to capture all of this rainwater as there are many variables such as when and how much it rains, available capacity of the water tank(s) as well as the fluctuation in water consumption at Dole Reserve Stadium.

Given that there does not seem to be a widely accepted formula in use to accurately assess what size tank would be required to harvest rainwater in different circumstances, it is difficult to recommend the size of tank required at Dole Reserve. In practical terms, if a 9000L tank was installed, it should service the pavilion and stadium requirements at Dole Reserve unless there is an absence of rain for around 10 weeks or longer. Installing a 45,000L tank would ensure that the stadium water requirements are satisfied all year, with a strong likelihood that an excess supply would be captured and used for other purposes such as tree watering.

Based on these estimates, it seems a feasible option to harvest rainwater for the purpose of supplying stadium requirements. Using the harvested rainwater to irrigate the sporting ground is not a feasible option given that one irrigation event would require around 80,000L. It is important to note that summer is when the playing field is most in need of watering, however this is traditionally and increasingly a period of low rainfall. When the water is needed most it is less likely to be available.

In keeping with Council's aim of reducing the use of potable water, it is recommended that consideration be given to harvesting rainwater from Dole Reserve for the purposes of stadium use only.

It is also worth noting that Council's Environmental Strategy Unit is developing a strategy for rainwater harvesting during 2009/2010 which is likely to include the best potential sites for rainwater harvesting across the municipality.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Should the harvesting of rainwater from Dole Reserve Stadium be recommended as part of the Darebin wide rainwater harvesting strategy, the water savings will be in keeping with Council's aim of a 25% reduction in potable water use by 2010.

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

The importance of sport within the community, particularly in the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community and for people who are disadvantaged, should not be underestimated. Sport brings people together, increases interracial connectivity, reduces social isolation, enables people from all walks of life to compete on an even playing field, teaches life skills, brings stability and provides a positive focus.

It is not envisaged that harvesting rainwater from the Dole Reserve Stadium, for the purpose of toilet flushing, would have any impact on social inclusion and diversity.

### **Other**

The harvesting of rainwater from Dole Reserve Stadium, should it be recommended as part of the Darebin wide rainwater harvesting strategy, would contribute to fulfilling Commitments 33 and 34 of the Council Plan 2005 – 2009:

33. We will continue to reduce the amount of energy and water used by our organisation and will further reduce the amount of waste we produce
34. We will foster environmentally sustainable behaviour in the community achieve a reduction in community consumption of energy and water and to ensure that sending waste to landfill is seen as a last resort

Whilst this plan is coming to an end, it is assumed that there will be a continued focus on water savings in the new Council plan.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- The cost of purchasing and installing one 9000L tank, for the purpose of toilet flushing at Dole Reserve Stadium, would be around \$6000
- The cost of purchasing and installing one 45,000L tank, for the purpose of toilet flushing at Dole Reserve stadium and an excess supply for other uses, would be between \$10,000 and \$15,000

The figures above are estimates only and will increase if more than one tank is required to service different parts of the facility. Any site specific issues also have the potential to increase the cost.

There is no allocation in the 2009/2010 capital budget for this project.

### **Water Grants and Funding Opportunities – State and Federal**

There is a wide range of water grant opportunities from both State and Federal Government. The majority of these grant programs have a city/town wide focus and usually have a funding range from \$50,000 up to \$4,000,000. The application timelines are staggered throughout the year and a number of grant programs have ceased or are under review.

Potential funding options are as follows:

- Drought Relief for Community Sport and Recreation Program (State Government). Council received \$50,000 contribution towards the warm season grass program for 2009/2010.
- Community Facility Funding Program (State Government). Funding guidelines and application timelines will be released in August/September this year for the 2010/2011 funding round.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

Environmental Strategy Unit will complete the rainwater harvesting strategy as previously mentioned and report back to Council during the 2009/2010 financial year.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Sustainable Water Use Plan

**8.3 PRESTON CITY OVAL - SPORT SCOPING STUDY****MINUTE NO. 241****AUTHOR:** Manager, Leisure Services - Janice Lane**MANAGER:** General Manager Community Assets and Leisure - Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** \$1.6 million provided by Sport Recreation Victoria and AFL Victoria

\$50,000 contribution from Council's capital program 2009/2010.

**SUMMARY:**

Through funds provided by the State Government and AFL Victoria, Council has embarked on a Sport Scoping Study to provide key directions for future development at Preston City Oval. A Sport Scoping Study has concluded and finalisation of the best option for future improvements at Preston City Oval have been endorsed by the Project Control Group (PCG). The preferred concept meets a number of objectives and can be integrated with other Master planning that has been done previously for the oval.

**CONSULTATION:**

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV)  
AFL Victoria  
Northern Bullants Football Club  
Preston Cricket Club  
Preston Football Club Social Club  
Northern Knights Football Club  
Preston Junior Bullants Football Club  
Relevant Council Departments

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

- (1) Adopt the Sport Scoping Study by Consultants @leisure for Preston City Oval attached as **Appendix C** to this report.
- (2) Endorse the preferred option for development at Preston City Oval attached as **Appendix B** to this report combining the key priorities of:
  - Social/function room area for around 120+ people with views to the ground
  - Provision of office space for Northern Knights Football Club
  - All abilities access via a lift that connects the two buildings (ie. grandstand and administration building)
  - Minor landscaping works such as new signage and fencing



- Allowance for ESD initiatives as part of the new building works.
- (3) Note that further negotiations between the Northern Bullants Football Club and Preston Football Social Club continue around future management options of the social club/function room area.
  - (4) Note that further negotiations between Council officers and the Preston Junior Bullants Football Club continue around reduced usage of the oval.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana

**SECONDED:** Cr. B. Morgan

**THAT** Council:

- (1) Adopt the Sport Scoping Study by Consultants @leisure for Preston City Oval attached as **Appendix C** to this report.
- (2) Endorse the preferred option for development at Preston City Oval attached as **Appendix B** to this report combining the key priorities of:
  - Social/function room area for around 120+ people with views to the ground
  - Provision of office space for Northern Knights Football Club
  - All abilities access via a lift that connects the two buildings (ie. grandstand and administration building)
  - Minor landscaping works such as new signage and fencing
  - Allowance for ESD initiatives as part of the new building works.
- (3) Note that further negotiations between the Northern Bullants Football Club and Preston Football Social Club continue around future management options of the social club/function room area.
- (4) Note that further negotiations between Council officers and the Preston Junior Bullants Football Club continue around usage of the Cramer Street Preston oval.

**CARRIED**

### REPORT

#### BACKGROUND

In 2008, the State Government (Sport Recreation Victoria) announced a funding package of \$10 million across the state for improved facilities at venues providing for the Victorian Football League. Preston City Oval was included as part of this funding package and the State Government has agreed to provide \$1.4 million towards this project. In addition, AFL Victoria will also contribute a further \$200,000 towards the project, bringing the total external funds to \$1.6 million.

Preston City Oval is one of the City's Premier sporting facilities. It forms an integral part of the Preston Central Activity Centre and is identified as a key site for upgrading as part of the Preston Central Vision of 2006.

The facility is home to the Northern Bullants Football Club (NBFC) which plays in the Victorian Football League (VFL) and the Preston Cricket Club (PCC) which plays sub-district cricket. The Preston Football Social Club manages the social club operations at the oval.

The facility is also extensively used by other sporting groups within the community including the Northern Football League, the Northern Knights (AFL Victoria TAC Cup Team) and the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club. In addition, a number of community events are held at this facility and provides for casual use during the week when training/matches are not played.

The Preston City Oval is managed by Darebin City Council and is licensed to various user groups. The licensed club pays a concessional fee to use the ground and buildings where appropriate. Council has a full-time curator based at the venue year round.

A Sport Scoping Study commenced in August 2008 with the key user groups to determine the future development options for the oval that would meet a number of key objectives. The Sport Scoping Study has now concluded recommending a preferred option. (See **Appendix C** for a complete copy of report).

The Sport Scoping Study aims to address the sport facilities functionality at Preston City Oval and make recommendations for future capital development that meet a number of objectives. These are:

- Financial sustainability for the Northern Bullants Football Club
- Greater community access to the Preston City Oval
- Meet the needs of Preston City Oval as a Premier Sports Facility
- Integrates the sport and open space plans for the oval.

## **CORE ISSUES**

As a Premier Facility in the City of Darebin, Preston City Oval provides for a range of interest groups – high level sporting needs to a range of community access needs.

In 2005, Council adopted a Master plan for the oval that outlines a number of priorities over the next ten years that increase visual permeability, physical access, diversity of users and beautification. The Master Plan provides a framework for the continuing development of the park. It was important to integrate the priorities from the 2005 Master plan into any new development proposal at the oval resulting from the Sport Scoping Study.

### **Steering Committee**

A Project Control Group (PCG) was established for this project and comprises Northern Bullants Football Club, AFL Victoria, Sport Recreation Victoria and Council officers.

Following consultation with key stakeholders, the following key elements were identified as a priority.

- Social/function room space for around 120+ people with appropriate viewing of the oval.
- Small gymnasium for use by all Clubs who are licenced to use the oval – ie. Northern Bullants Football Club and Northern Knights Football Club.
- Additional storage and toilet change facilities
- Consolidation of office administration for the Northern Bullants Football Club and Northern Knights Football Club in the current stand-alone building currently used by Northern Knights Football Club, administration and social area.
- Improvement of the entrance gateway to the oval.
- Improved public toilets, scoreboard and associated ground facilities
- Ground refurbishment to warm season turf.

### **Consultation**

A comprehensive consultation program was enacted to achieve plans that would satisfy the objectives for this project. The Consultation phase included:

- A telephone survey for all user groups
- Interviews with Council staff, SRV and AFL
- Face to face meetings with the Preston Social Club, Preston Junior Football Club, Northern Knights Football Club and the Preston Cricket Club
- A number of Steering Committee meetings
- Interviews with Councils responsible for VFL grounds

### **Preferred Concept**

The preferred concept recommended by the PCG best addresses the project objectives and the key priority improvement works can be delivered within the external \$1.6 million funding. The key elements include:

- Social /function room area for around 120+ people with views to the ground
- Provision of office space for Northern Knights Football Club
- Gymnasium to be used by current user groups
- Additional storage space to be used by current user groups
- All abilities access via a lift and walkway that connects the two buildings (ie. grandstand and administration building)
- Minor landscaping treatments such as new signage and fencing
- Allowance for Environmentally Sustainable Design features.

Depending upon the tender price, key elements such as the gymnasium (exercise room) and storage facilities may be accommodated. However, the key priorities for the Northern Bullants Football Club can be met within the external funding provided as shown in **Appendix B** (shaded in orange).

Council has also allocated \$50,000 in the 2009/2010 capital works program for Preston City Oval. This funding will be used for new signage and landscaping works as part of the proposed building works.

(See **Appendix A** for location of building works proposed at Preston City Oval).

(See **Appendix B** for preferred option at Preston City Oval).

Other improvement works from the recent Preston City Oval Sports Scoping Study and the previously adopted Preston City Oval Master plan can be scheduled at a later date and funded from either Council's capital works budget and /or external grants. The total estimated cost of these works is \$500,000. The key elements include:

- Warm season grass conversion (funded as part of 2009/2010 capital works budget)
- New visitor public toilet block (and removal of existing one near railway line)
- Re-align and improve perimeter fencing and the intended boundary fence
- Park signage
- Removal of disused toilet facility behind Mary Street
- New entry gateway on Cramer Street and landscaping works.

### **Operation and Management of new Function Centre**

The future operation and management of the function centre is yet to be determined. Both the Preston Football Social Club and the Northern Bullants Football Club have expressed interest in its future operations.

The Preston Football Social Club has a fledging membership and operates a basic food service catering for external community groups and functions at a discounted price. The club holds a liquor licence for the site and disburse annual donations to both the Northern Bullants Football Club and the Preston Cricket Club. The Preston Football Social Club's lease has expired and their occupancy is in overholding.

The Northern Bullants Football Club is keen to operate the new function centre to improve their future business sustainability. They have a current licence to occupy offices and to use the ground. They operate a small canteen during game days and contract out catering as required. The State Government would be expected to support the Northern Bullants Football Club's interest to operate the proposed function centre considering it has been fully funded by them to support football in the north.

A Business plan is required for the new function centre along with a professional venue Manager. Negotiations are continuing with both groups to determine the best way forward that could provide the social and sports related business events. A secondary option is to consider an Expression of Interest process to secure a future operator.

### **Oval Utilisation**

Preston City Oval is extensively used by licensed groups and other groups such as Northern Football League and Victorian Women's Football League for final matches. A condition audit was conducted by SportsTurf Pty Ltd to assess the condition of the ground and determine its usage capacity. The audit concludes that the oval is in good condition, however, has some thin areas due to heat and moisture stress and weaker areas recovering from football wear.

The sports field usage capacity is defined as the number of hours of use that a surface can sustain before it deteriorates to a point where short term recovery is not achievable. The estimated potential

usage capacity for football during the winter season is 10 to 15 hours per week which includes both match play and training. The current usage is around 30 hours per week and it is recommended that this usage be reduced to ensure the longevity of the playing surface.

A funding partner of this project is AFL Victoria. AFL Victoria wishes to include the Northern Knights at part of the overall mix at Preston City Oval. The Northern Knights can best be described as a pathway for young players who have the potential to be AFL players. In order to fully consolidate the Northern Knights to the oval, it is recommended that further discussions be held with the Preston Junior Bullants Football Club to reduce their current usage of the oval so that the oval can be preserved for the major user groups.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

The preliminary cost estimates provide for contemporary environmental features as part of building construction. The next phase of the project will more accurately scope out the environmental components in line with Council's policy position and include features such as energy efficient heating and cooling systems, double glazed windows and energy efficient lighting.

In addition in line with warm season grass conversion of our sporting reserves, Preston City Oval is earmarked for grass conversion in October 2009 which will improve the playing surface of the ground in line with a reduced water allocation regime.

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

Many sporting activities aim to provide a social inclusion framework by bringing groups together irrespective of gender, race or age and provide opportunities to break down barriers that may exist in communities.

Preston City Oval supports physical active recreation opportunities such as Australian Rules Football and Cricket. In addition, the Northern Bullants FC in particular provides opportunities for business networking within the local area and it is anticipated that business functions will continue once the refurbished social/function room has been constructed. Other activities successfully held at the oval include the Annual *Runaway to the Oval* event which has been building a major crowd of interested residents and community members connected with the oval over the past number of years.

In addition, the inclusion of a lift and walkway connecting the two buildings – grandstand and administration building allows for improved access at the oval. These elements provide greater opportunities for people with disabilities to use Preston City Oval.

### **Other**

Nil.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed works (**Appendix B** – shaded in orange) are to be funded by Sport Recreation Victoria and AFL Victoria as part of the \$1.6 million provided.

It is proposed that future capital budget bids and external grants are sought to complete the Master plan and the balance of the building works proposed at Preston City Oval as provided in the preferred

concept plan. The future works proposed will be prioritised through Council's budget process for 2010 and beyond.

In 2009/2010, \$50,000 has been set aside for works at Preston City Oval and this allocation will be used for new signage and landscaping treatments.

In 2009/2010, a further \$50,000 has been set aside for warm season grass conversion at the oval and works will commence in October 2009 in preparation for the 2010 winter season.

### **FUTURE ACTIONS**

Further consultation regarding management and usage arrangements to continue with key user groups

A targeted information session to sport users and the concept plan is displayed on Council's website, Preston Library and Oval and in Council's Customer Services foyer for a period of 2-3 weeks.

Progress to detailed design and building approval for the improvement works with a view to commence construction works in early 2010 (subject to successful planning approval).

A further report provided to Council when management and usage arrangements are confirmed.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Preston City Oval Master Plan, Hassell, September 2005

Council Report – Preston City Oval – Funding under the Community Access to VFL Grounds Funding program, Janice Lane 2008

Preston Central Structure Plan, City of Darebin 2006

**8.4 RESIDENTIAL PARKING - HAYES STREET NORTHCOTE****MINUTE NO. 242****AUTHOR:** Transport Engineer - Daniel Neave**MANAGER:** Manager, Transport Management - Daniel Kollmorgen**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Nil.**SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 16 March 2009, Council requested that:

- (1) *“Parking fines issued to residents of Hayes Street Northcote on 26 February 2009 be suspended.*
- (2) *Parking restrictions in Hayes Street Northcote be reviewed in response to a petition submitted by residents of the street.*
- (3) *As part of the review, Council consult with residents with a view to either the issuing of two residential parking permits or the abolition of resident parking permit parking all together”.*

This report summarises the issues and recommends that parking restrictions be removed from the west side of Hayes Street, and that public consultation be undertaken in twelve months time with regard to removing parking restrictions on the east side.

**RECOMMENDATION****THAT:**

- (1) Council receive and note this report regarding residential parking in Hayes Street Northcote.
- (2) The four-hour parking restriction on the west side of Hayes Street Northcote be removed.
- (3) Owner/Occupiers of properties in Hayes Street Northcote be consulted in twelve months time with regard to removing the two-hour parking restrictions on the east side of the street.
- (4) Recipients of parking infringement notices be issued with reminder notices.
- (5) Owner/Occupiers of properties in Hayes Street Northcote be notified of the outcome of this report.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Tsitas**THAT:**

- (1) Council receive and note this report regarding residential parking in Hayes Street Northcote.
- (2) All parking restrictions in Hayes Street Northcote be removed.
- (3) A review of parking in Hayes Street Northcote be carried out in twelve months time.
- (4) Owner/Occupiers of properties in Hayes Street Northcote be notified of the outcome of this report.

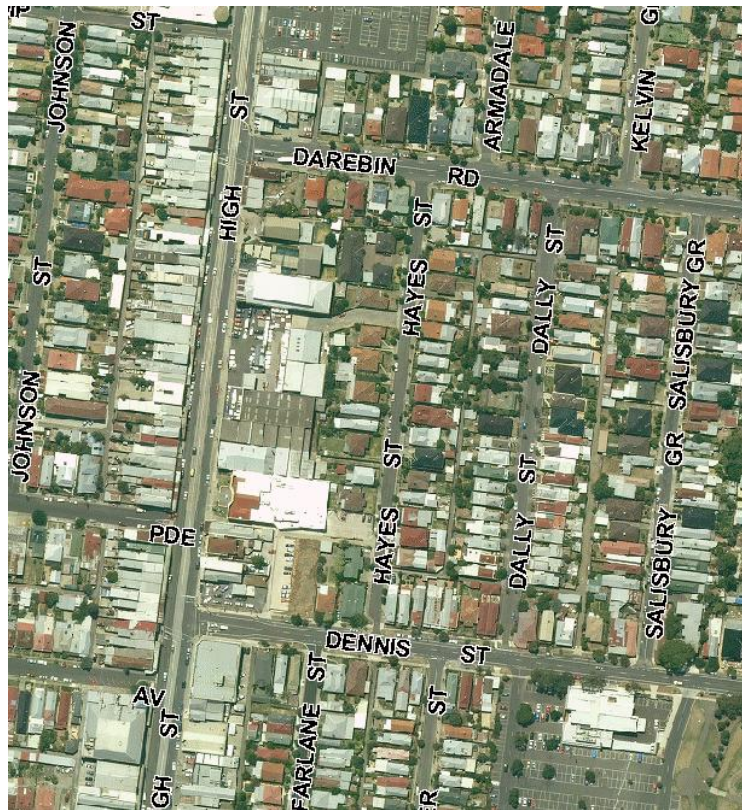
**CARRIED****REPORT****BACKGROUND**

Hayes Street is located at the northern most end of Northcote running parallel with High Street. Hayes Street is approximately 7.7 metres in width which allows for parking on both sides of the carriageway and a trafficable lane. Traffic data has been collected and it shows that there are approximately 250 vehicles per day travelling from Darebin Road to Dennis Street as Hayes Street is a one way road in the south direction.

Residents have expressed concerns over on-street parking due to the proximity to Northcote RSL and the general activity around High Street creating parking demand. In the past, parking restrictions have been introduced on both sides and they generally are – two hour parking on the east side and four hour parking on the west side. These restrictions are in place between the hours of 7AM to 11PM from Monday to Saturday. There is also a small area of No Stopping, a small area of one hour parking and a small area of unrestricted parking towards the southern end of Hayes Street.

There are nine properties that have been issued residential parking permits out of a possible 36, with one property having two permits. Council's Traffic Enforcement team patrolled the street on 26 February 2009 and issued four infringements for vehicles overstaying the restrictions. These infringement notices have been suspended until the resolution of the Council report. Council's Traffic Enforcement team report that they have not received any parking complaints since December 2001.





**CORE ISSUES**

Investigations by Council officers have been carried out and the findings are that the current restrictions do not utilise on-street parking effectively as the parking use is less than 20% of the capacity of the street. There are approximately 65 available spaces to park in Hayes Street and during site inspections Officers noted less than 15 vehicles on every occasion.

In environments similar to Hayes Street, Council officers recommend a mixture of parking restrictions and unrestricted parking which gives an opportunity for all motorists to find a place to park and also gives residents an advantage as they are eligible to obtain a permit to park in the restrictions for as long as they like.

Public consultation was undertaken with the 40 properties that either front or abut Hayes Street with 20 responses received by Council. The results are in the following table.

Keep current restrictions	8 responses
Remove restrictions from west side (4 hour parking)	0 responses
Remove restrictions from east side (2 hour parking)	1 response
Remove restrictions from both sides	10 responses
No Opinion	0 responses
Other	1 response

**Keep current restrictions**

The current parking restrictions provide parking options as the east side of Hayes Street has two hour parking and the west side has four hour parking. By having options on where to park, this creates an area for the whole community to utilise, including visitors to the residential properties. Council's Traffic Enforcement team do not support parking restrictions over two hours in length due to the logistical challenges of enforcement. As Hayes Street has a possible 65 spaces and only 42 possible permits, this leaves an area equivalent of 23 car parking spaces empty for the majority of the time. Although the street provides options on parking, the current restrictions are not the most appropriate.

**Remove restrictions from west side**

Although this option was not supported by any resident during the public consultation, it is seen by Council Officers as the most appropriate option for the reasons previously mentioned. This option provides alternatives where visitors are able to utilise the unrestricted side of the street and residents have the ability to purchase a residential parking permit to park within the two hour parking restriction for as long as they like.

**Remove restrictions from east side**

Due to the lack of support from residents and four hour parking not being supported by Council Officers, it is recommended to not proceed with this option.

**Remove restrictions from both sides**

This outcome from the public opinion survey was the most popular. Officers when changing on-street parking restrictions prefer to not change restrictions on both sides of a street at the same time as such significant changes create unforeseen problems with on-street parking. If Council resolves to proceed with this option, Officers recommend removing the parking restrictions on the west side, and in twelve months time investigate whether removing restrictions on the east side is favourable with the residents.

**Parking permits**

Darebin City Council's residential parking permit scheme states that properties with off-street parking are eligible for one permit and properties with no off-street parking are eligible for two permits. There are six properties in Hayes Street with no off-street parking, therefore Hayes Street has a possible 42 residential parking permits, but only ten have been issued.

**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**

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

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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Nil, within current budgets.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Traffic Enforcement to send reminder notices to recipients of infringement notices.

Officers to inform residents of the outcome of the survey.

Council to remove restrictions on the west side (4 hour parking) and notify residents that Officers will review the situation in twelve months.

**8.5 W.H. ROBINSON RESERVE STREET ART – GRAFFITI  
PROJECT: SURVEY OF LOCAL OPINION****MINUTE NO. 243****AUTHOR: Manager, Arts and Culture - Mark Wilkinson****MANAGER: General Manager Communities and Culture - Jan Black****BUDGET  
IMPLICATIONS: Nil****SUMMARY:**

This report outlines the history of this project and details the results of the survey of local opinion. This survey was conducted following Council's resolution to seek feedback on the project from the local community and relevant stakeholders.

**CONSULTATION:**

Local residents and park users  
Darebin Leisure Services  
Family, Youth and Community Support Branch  
Business Improvement Branch

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** Council officers monitor the street art - graffiti involving W.H. Robinson Reserve for a period of twelve months and provide a further report to Council at the end of that period.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. V. Fontana**  
**SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis**

- (1) **THAT** the graffiti mural in W.H. Robinson Reserve be removed because it is incompatible with the general park environment, and that the young artists who worked on the project be offered an alternative and appropriate space to re-do their work.
- (2) **THAT** the graffiti mural be removed within the next 30 days.

**CARRIED**

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**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

In early 2008 Council was contacted by a local resident, artist and youth worker to undertake a street art - graffiti project at W. H. Robinson Reserve in Preston. The project was to paint aerosol murals on the retaining wall of the old baseball field. The project's aim was to allow young people an opportunity to participate in a legal expression of their art and to deter antisocial behaviour. As custodians of Council's sporting facilities the resident was referred to Darebin Leisure Services (DLS).

DLS contacted the sporting groups which used the facility to see if they had any problems with the project which they didn't. DLS also consulted the Arts and Culture Branch seeking advice on any legal issues around public art projects and the advice was given that the artist should enter into a contract with Council and that the Arts and Culture Branch could provide a template of such a contract.

The resident also sought advice on funding for the project and contacted Arts and Culture directly; they were advised that the only funding available for the project would be through the Community Grants Scheme. The resident then made an application.

Application was made for \$2,800 of support and the project was entitled *Street Art Not Vandalism*. Council officers recommended funding of \$1,400 and this went to the Community Grants Advisory Committee of Council. The Committee was informed of the park, the wall and the nature of the project and approved the grant.

A condition was placed on the Grant firstly that the art work be approved by the Arts and Culture Branch to ensure that the subject matter was not considered 'offensive by a reasonable person', which is the usual criterion for assessing designs for the public realm. This criterion refers to the subject matter of the work not the style or manner of execution. The grantee complied with this condition.

It was also recommended by the Arts and Culture Branch that an agreement be drawn up between the artists and the auspicing body; this was done. There was also an agreement for the artists to waive their moral rights if in the future Council needed to remove the works.

Leading up to the commencement of the project the grantee developed plans for an event to coincide with the painting of the wall. The grantee also suggested that the baseball dugouts be included in the aerosol art scheme. On the first point the grantee had several meetings with Festival's staff in the Arts and Culture Branch to gain advice and information on how to safely run an event and to ensure the event had public liability insurance, etc. The grantee provided all the documentation and was given permission to hold the event. Officers did request that the grantee notify residents. On painting the dugouts in addition to the wall the grantee was asked to check with the sporting clubs and this was done.

**CORE ISSUES**

It would be safe to say that the project has given rise to a number of issues that need to be addressed.

No notice was given to residents that the event accompanying the project was to happen. Council officers did not monitor that such notification was given. Council has written to residents affected apologising for this. It is important that in future more diligence is taken in the provision of notice.

A number of residents contacted Council immediately after the event and complained that they were not consulted about the street art – graffiti murals. With limited resources, Council is not in a position to consult residents regarding every community project it funds, even though that project may have some impact on them. Council funds about 150 projects through the grant scheme annually for an average amount of approximately \$1500. In most cases Council needs to rely on the experience of its officers to assess each project on a case-by-case basis. In this case it was thought that the community around the park and the users of the park would be generally accepting to the nature of this project and its intentions and that a broader consultation was unwarranted. As it turns out most local residents and park users are supportive of the project and its intentions, as the survey results outlined below demonstrate. However, the strength of feeling of those residents and users of the park opposed to this graffiti project requires that in future Council officers place all similar project proposals into a case category that does require more pre-consultation.

Another issue arising from this project of direct relevance to the Community Grant Scheme is the need for better clarity around a grantee's obligations when the funds allocated fall short of the funding request. In this case the funding granted was about half that requested. A project should not be expected to maintain the same scope and produce the same result with reduced funding but it is necessary to clarify exactly what can be achieved and this should be noted in the funding and service agreement. The upcoming review of community grants should examine this aspect of funding.

### **Survey results**

Following the community concern over this project, Council resolved to canvass opinion from local residents and users of the park.

This canvassing of opinion was conducted in two ways. The first method was by letter to 204 households in the vicinity of the park and a further 18 surveys to members of sports clubs that use the park. The second method was to conduct an intercept survey (a face-to-face questionnaire) at the park. Those who completed the letter survey did not complete an intercept survey.

In all, 140 responses were received, 60 through the letter survey and 80 through the intercept survey. Of the letter survey respondents, 94.7% were local residents and even though the intercept survey was open to users as well as residents, 92.5% were local residents.

In response to the question as to whether the street art - graffiti should be removed 29 respondents to the letter survey said it should and 26 said it shouldn't, 5 couldn't say. The intercept survey showed a more dramatic difference of opinion with 15 believing it should be removed and 57 believing that it should be retained, 5 couldn't say and 3 didn't give an answer. In total, of the 137 people that answered this question, 44 (32%) opted for removal, 83 (61%) opted for retention, 10 (7%) couldn't say.

Respondents were asked to comment on the reasons for their preference. Those who disliked the street art – graffiti believed the work looked awful, was unsuitable for the area and would encourage anti-social behaviour. Those who liked the work believe it added colour and brightened up the space and that it would reduce anti-social behaviour.

The questionnaire also asked for any other comments. These comments were far ranging; for example there were a number of people that commented on the cyclists riding too fast. These comments will be referred to relevant Council Branches.

As the ratio is nearly two to one in favour of retaining the work, it is recommended that the work is not removed. The question of it encouraging more anti-social behaviour is a matter of conjecture, but if indeed it does then it probably should be removed. It is therefore further recommended that the situation be monitored for a period of twelve months and if there is evidence of increased anti-social

behaviour then the decision to retain the work should be reviewed. Council should receive a report on the matter after the 12 months.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

No significant implications with regard to environmental sustainability.

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

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

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

### **Other**

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

*Aim:* Resource opportunities for the community to participate in arts and cultural activities throughout the municipality. *Action:* Encourage community groups to organise their own festivals and events.

*Aim:* Ensure that Council is a leader in arts and cultural activities by encouraging innovation and experimentation in projects developed or supported by Council. *Action:* Create forums and other specific opportunities for productive cultural debate to take place and for the promotion of the value of arts and cultural activities in community and civic life.

*Aim:* Provide advice, support and information to artists working in all art forms. *Action:* Promote and support artist and community partnerships through facilitating networks, providing advice, and creating funding opportunities through the Community Grants Scheme.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Council officers forward a copy of the survey results to residents who requested this information.

Council officers monitor the graffiti-street art in W. H. Robinson Reserve for a period of 12 months and submit a report to Council.

*Cr Tsitas temporarily left the meeting – 8.15pm*



**8.6 IMPLICATIONS FOR GREENPOWER UNDER THE CARBON POLLUTION REDUCTION SCHEME****MINUTE NO. 244****AUTHOR:** Environment Project Officer, Utilities Management – Heidi Hamm**MANAGER:** Environmental Strategy Co-ordinator - Michelle Bennett**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within current budget**SUMMARY:**

This report explores the proposed changes to the National Government's Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) in regard to GreenPower and the implications for Council purchases of GreenPower. As part of the new measures proposed for the CPRS announced in May 2009, GreenPower purchases additional to a benchmark established by GreenPower purchases in 2009 will be taken into consideration and the CPRS target will be directly adjusted every five years. This is a step forward from the previous position that did not recognise GreenPower purchases at all, but it does not go far enough to support this industry. All GreenPower purchases (not just those above a 2009 benchmark) should result in greenhouse emission reductions beyond the National target and the cap should be adjusted annually to reflect this.

This report recommends that Council continue to advocate on this issue by writing to the Minister for Climate Change and notes that our 2009 GreenPower purchases will be administratively amended to achieve the best greenhouse reduction benefit.

**CONSULTATION:**

Peter Shuey - Director Australian CO2Exchange (trading as Ark Climate), the Municipal Association of Victoria, State and National Government via submissions and advocacy.

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

- (1) Council note that Darebin's GreenPower purchases in the 2009 calendar year will be administratively allocated to 2010 so that these purchases may positively influence national government Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme caps and targets.
- (2) Council write to the Minister for Climate Change and local Members of Parliament informing them of these actions and advocating that all GreenPower purchases should achieve emission reductions beyond Australia's National targets on an annual basis.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT**

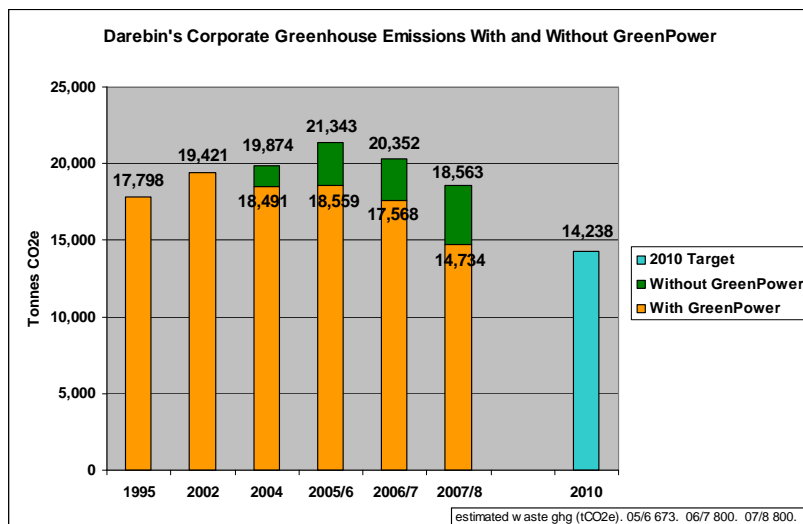
**BACKGROUND**

**The Importance of GreenPower**

GreenPower is government accredited renewable energy. Instead of sourcing electricity from coal fired generators (the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in Australia), electricity consumers can choose to have their electricity sourced from new renewable energy such as wind, solar, small scale hydro and biomass. This allows consumers to choose electricity that is effectively 'greenhouse neutral' and increases the percentage of renewable energy produced in Australia. The purchase of GreenPower is usually done by an energy retailer on behalf of the customer, but can also be purchased directly from some GreenPower providers. GreenPower generally costs more than buying conventional, greenhouse intensive electricity. Darebin makes purchases directly from a GreenPower provider in order to achieve the most competitive price.

Darebin Council has been purchasing GreenPower for some of our electricity consumption since 2003. The size of this purchase has been increasing steadily over time with a significant commitment from 2008/2009 to buy GreenPower for all of Council's owned and managed buildings. This ensures that we will achieve our 2010 reduction target of a 20% reduction on 1995 levels by 2010, this financial year, one year ahead of schedule.

The contribution of GreenPower to the success of Darebin's Climate Change Action Plan, which achieved a 16% reduction in emissions in 2007/2008 compared to the previous financial year, is indicated in the graph below. The graph shows that our greenhouse emissions would be more than 3,800 tonnes higher in 2007/2008, and much further from our target, without the purchase of GreenPower.



The ongoing purchase of GreenPower will continue to be a significant action for making progress towards our 2020 Carbon Neutral target for Council operations. The guiding principle of Darebin's Climate Change Action Plan is the energy hierarchy, which identifies in priority order:

- Conserve energy – use only what is needed and avoid wastage
- Energy efficiency – use necessary energy as efficiently as possible

- Renewable energy – purchase GreenPower – accredited renewable energy, and/or small-scale renewable installations
- Offset residual emissions – offsetting involves investing in emission reductions offsite through accredited tree planting or energy efficiency programs. Offsetting is a good option only for those residual emissions that cannot be addressed through conservation, efficiency or renewable energy.

### **Implications for GreenPower under the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme**

The original proposal of the CPRS through the Department of Climate Change White Paper released on 15 December 2008, *Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme: Australia's Low Pollution Future* set a medium-term national target to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions of 5 per cent below 2000 levels by the end of 2020 or 15 per cent below if broad global agreement is achieved for substantial reductions.

The key strategy to meeting this target is through the development of an Emissions Trading Scheme involving only the largest emitters (around 100 covered entities), the idea of which is to put a price on greenhouse emissions that will then flow through the whole economy as covered entities pass on their costs to consumers. In theory this will encourage energy efficiency and the choice of low carbon products.

### **CORE ISSUES**

The original proposal of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) was such that any voluntary action that was undertaken (eg. energy efficiency actions, reduced car use by individuals or organisations, installation of solar panels) would simply contribute to the 5 per cent National reduction target rather than reducing emissions beyond the target. This is particularly problematic for the GreenPower program as consumers generally pay more to purchase GreenPower than conventional coal generated electricity. Many consumers would be likely to seriously question the value of purchasing GreenPower if their additional commitment did not have any net effect on Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

Darebin Council and other concerned groups advocated to the Federal Government that all GreenPower purchases be additional to the 5 per cent target and therefore be used to tighten the cap for those entities involved in the Emissions Trading Scheme. Darebin's advocacy on this issue has included:

- Submission to the CPRS Green Paper
- Submission to the CPRS White Paper
- Joint statement with Environment Groups about voluntary measures and GreenPower
- Local Member of Parliament briefings in March 2009.

In response to submissions advocating for GreenPower to be additional to the target, the Federal Government announced a new proposal on Monday 4 May 2009. This new proposal was to benchmark GreenPower purchases for the 2009 calendar year, and then any purchases of GreenPower made above this level would be recognised when the Government sets new caps every five years.

While this is a positive step forward from the original proposal the unfortunate implication of this new measure is that any GreenPower purchased during 2009 will be setting a baseline for which all future purchases must exceed in order to be measured toward cap tightening under the CPRS. GreenPower purchases in 2009 will therefore reduce the effectiveness of the GreenPower scheme in the future.

The negative implications of this proposal are:

- It disenfranchises the action of those that have been purchasing GreenPower for many years
- It creates confusion for consumers about whether they should continue or commence to purchase GreenPower during the 2009 calendar year
- Those that do continue to purchase GreenPower during 2009 should also be continuing to reduce their energy use (and therefore buying less GreenPower) into the future – in line with the energy hierarchy. If a building purchases 100% GreenPower during 2009, while reducing energy consumption, the amount of GreenPower that will need to be purchased in 2010 will be less than that purchased in 2009. This creates a perverse situation under the current proposal as not only will the GreenPower purchase not count towards the cap tightening but won't reach the benchmark set by the previous year, making it even harder to go above and beyond the 2009 baseline
- Amending the CPRS cap only every five years to take into account GreenPower purchases creates uncertainty and delays the results of consumer action. The cap should be annually adjusted to reflect GreenPower purchases and this should be relatively easy to administer given the GreenPower reporting requirements.

Darebin Council has already taken advocacy action on this issue through a motion to the Municipal Association Victoria's (MAV) State Council in May 2009 which was passed with by a 77% majority of voters:

*That the MAV request the Federal Government to amend the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) to ensure that all purchases of Green Power reduce greenhouse emissions beyond the National greenhouse reduction target on an annual basis.*

### **Implications for Council**

Through the Climate Change Action Plan Council has committed to purchasing 100 per cent GreenPower for all of Council's owned and managed buildings from the 2008/2009 financial year. For the purposes of cost effectiveness, these purchases have been made in bulk amounts at times when the price of GreenPower is low. Three of these bulk purchases have been completed to cover the total electricity consumption for the 2008/2009 financial year. Two of these purchases were made during the 2008 calendar year, and the final purchase was made during the 2009 calendar year. The purchase of 1300 MWh during the 2009 calendar year will therefore contribute to the baseline for GreenPower purchases under the new CPRS proposal.

The purchase in 2009 was obtained from GreenPower provider Ark Climate. Ark Climate has given Darebin Council the opportunity to have the amount purchased (1300 MWh) in 2009 allocated to 2010 via an administrative arrangement that is compatible with the GreenPower program requirements.

This allocation will not affect our level of purchase in 2009 or 2010; it will just ensure that the 1300 MWh purchased does not contribute to the 2009 benchmark so that our future GreenPower purchases will achieve emission reductions beyond the CPRS cap.

Communicating this action taken via an administrative procedure to the Federal Government will help raise awareness of the problems associated with the 2009 benchmark proposal and act as a further advocacy measure.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

As discussed in the report the administrative change to our 2009 GreenPower purchase to be accredited in 2010 will optimise environmental outcomes by ensuring that this purchase is additional to the 2009 benchmark, thereby reducing emissions beyond the National target.

**Social Inclusion and Diversity**

There are no direct social implications from the recommended actions.

Given the complexity of this issue and the risk of creating unnecessary doubt about the integrity of the GreenPower program it is not proposed that Darebin Council advocate directly to the community on changing or delaying their GreenPower purchase in 2009. Community members who inquire directly with Council will also be encouraged to take advocacy action on this issue.

**Other**

Nil.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

GreenPower purchases for all Council owned and managed buildings for 2009/2010 have been included in the current budget. No further financial implications will be involved in the allocation of the 2009 purchase to 2010.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Continue to implement the Climate Change Action Plan and progress towards the 2020 Carbon Neutral target by;

- Continuing the purchase of GreenPower for all Council owned and managed buildings with a view to extending this to all of Council's electricity use over time – including street lighting after the switch to more energy efficient technology
- Continuing the energy efficiency program for all Council owned and managed sites
- Reviewing the scope of our current greenhouse inventory with a view to extending this to take into consideration contracted services eg. Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, Child Care Centres, Waste Services etc. and working with service providers to reduce emissions.
- Working with the electricity distribution businesses to install energy efficient street lighting
- Investigating co-generation at the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre as well as at other appropriate facilities
- Completing the Council Fleet Review and reducing Council's greenhouse emissions from fuel use
- Offsetting residual emissions only.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Climate Change Action Plan  
Submission to the CPRS Green Paper  
Submission to the CPRS White Paper

**8.7 NORTHERN ALLIANCE FOR GREENHOUSE ACTION  
GOVERNANCE AND EXECUTIVE REPRESENTATION****MINUTE NO. 245****AUTHOR: Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett****MANAGER: General Manager Environment and Amenity - Libby Hynes****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Within Current Budget****SUMMARY:**

This report provides an overview of the proposed new Governance Structure of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action and seeks nomination of a Darebin representative of the NAGA Executive and endorsement of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action consists of nine northern metropolitan Councils and the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd (MEFL) and has been successful in attracting funding and delivering a range of programs and activities to tackle climate change.

**CONSULTATION:**

Members of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action: Cities of Banyule, Hume, Manningham, Melbourne, Moreland, Whittlesea, Yarra, the Shire of Nillumbik and the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd (MEFL).

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

- (1) Appoint ..... as a representative to the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Executive.
- (2) Endorse the NAGA Memorandum of Understanding attached as **Appendix B** to this report.
- (3) Continue to work with and support the work of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a regional basis.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

**THAT** Council:

- (1) Appoint Cr. McCarthy as a representative to the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) Executive with Cr. Laurence as proxy.
- (2) Endorse the NAGA Memorandum of Understanding attached as **Appendix B** to this report.
- (3) Continue to work with and support the work of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a regional basis.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

The Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA) began operating as an informal alliance of greenhouse officers in 2002. Darebin was one of the founding members along with the Cities of Banyule, Hume, Whittlesea, Moreland, the Shire of Nillumbik and the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd (MEFL). The Cities of Melbourne, Manningham and Yarra joined NAGA in January 2006. These ten organisations now comprise the members of NAGA. NAGA has been receiving funding from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) for its coordination functions since 2005. This has allowed NAGA to employ its Coordinator, Judy Bush and to significantly expand its roles, functions, support for members and the types of projects and issues with which it engages. The Department of Sustainability and Environment will no longer be funding NAGA Coordination functions from the commencement of the 2009/2010 financial year. This has led to a review of NAGA's governance structure and Memorandum of Understanding.

Since 2005 NAGA has attracted more than \$1,000,000 in cash and in-kind contributions to implement climate change projects in the NAGA region. Key programs and activities include:

- Funding and coordination of the Sustainability Street program across the region. The City of Darebin had a high level of community engagement in this program with ten Sustainability Streets formed
- Funding and coordination of the VIC1000 program that assisted small businesses to improve the environmental performance of their building. In Darebin 17 businesses from High Street Northcote participated in the program.
- Extensive work to progress the roll-out of energy efficient T5 streetlights. This has included conducting trials, working with Distribution Businesses, the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Municipal Association of Victoria and making a submission to the Australian Energy Regulator on a fair and reasonable Operations and Maintenance Charge for T5 lights. Darebin has been the lead Council administering the NAGA Sustainable Public Lighting project funded by the Sustainability Accord for the last three years.
- The Towards Zero Net Emissions project which is developing a strategy for a regional approach to significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The draft TZNE report compliments



Darebin's Community Climate Change Action Plan and will be presented to Council for endorsement in the near future.

- A number of seminars and events including breakfast briefings for Councillors and senior management, seminars on adaptation and cogeneration.

## CORE ISSUES

NAGA has been an efficient and strategic regional partnership allowing many strategic projects to be undertaken jointly, attracting funding, saving resources, time, enabling learning and improving outcomes across the 10 member organisations.

The review of NAGA's governance structure and Memorandum of Understanding has resulted in the establishment of a NAGA Executive with one representative (a Councillor or senior staff member) from each NAGA member and the CEO of the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd.

### **Nomination of Darebin NAGA Executive Representative**

Darebin Council is required to nominate one Councillor or senior staff member to the NAGA Executive. The NAGA Executive will meet quarterly. The first meeting is scheduled for **9am Wednesday 22 July 2009, Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Road, Brunswick.**

The Terms of Reference for the NAGA Executive are attached as **Appendix A**. The key roles include:

- Establish strategic direction for NAGA's priorities, actions and operations
- Establish, manage and monitor NAGA's Finance Strategy
- High level members' engagement
- Identify and authorise advocacy issues and submissions
- Recommend any changes to the Terms of Reference to the MEFL board
- Report on the activities and resolutions of the NAGA Executive to the MEFL Board.

Libby Hynes, General Manager Environment and Amenity, is able to be nominated to represent Council on the NAGA Executive Committee or alternatively support a Councillor nominated in this role.

### **NAGA Memorandum of Understanding**

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to provide a framework for the ongoing cooperation of the parties and specifically to establish Council's funding commitment to NAGA and the roles and responsibility of each Party. The MoU is attached as **Appendix B**.

The MoU outlines:

- An annual funding commitment of \$10,000 (+3% annual increment) in 2009/2010 and for the following two years. This amount has been accommodated from the existing Environmental Strategy budget.
- The parties undertake to cooperate with each other in carrying out the work of NAGA and to use their best endeavours to ensure that work is carried out.

- Each of the parties agrees to nominate a single representative for each of the NAGA Executive and Steering Committee. NAGA's Steering Committee will continue to operate with a focus on project establishment, management and reporting and will report to the NAGA Executive. It is proposed that the Environmental Strategy Coordinator continue as the NAGA Steering Committee representative.

The Table below outlines the various levels of engagement that will occur via NAGA. The formal structures include the Steering Committee which reports to the NAGA Executive and informal issues based working groups to and information sharing will continue.

	<b>Representation</b>	<b>meeting frequency</b>	<b>focus/role</b>
<b><i>Formal structures</i></b>			
NAGA Executive	Councillors or Senior staff, MEFL CEO	Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strategic directions</li> <li>• high level members' engagement</li> <li>• Finance Strategy</li> <li>• Advocacy</li> </ul>
NAGA Steering Committee	officers, coordinators	quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• financial management</li> <li>• project establishment and management</li> <li>• working groups reporting</li> <li>• advocacy</li> </ul>
<b><i>Informal groups</i></b>			
NAGA Working Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation</li> <li>• Cogeneration</li> <li>• Residential PV</li> <li>• project-based</li> <li>• others, as needed</li> </ul>	officers, coordinators, other council staff, project partners	as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ongoing project management; recommendations to Steering Committee</li> <li>• technical discussion</li> <li>• detailed project development</li> </ul>
<b><i>Information dissemination, partnerships</i></b>			
NAGA network	officers, coordinators, external partners and stakeholders	quarterly	Forums based on 3 presentations and questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• members' presentations</li> <li>• topical presentations from partners, others,</li> <li>• project presentations</li> </ul>

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

### Environmental Sustainability

Darebin Council has been an active participant in NAGA to date and this participation complements and builds on our leadership position in Climate Change Action and effectively extends the range of programs and activities to tackle Climate Change that we are able to engage in.

**Social Inclusion and Diversity**

There are no foreseeable social inclusion implications from Darebin's ongoing participation in NAGA. Darebin representation on the NAGA Executive and NAGA Steering Committee will continue to ensure that the needs of our diverse community are considered and addressed in program development and communications.

**Other**

Membership of NAGA is consistent with Leadership and Engagement strategies set out in the recently adopted Council Plan.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding contribution specified in the MoU has been accommodated within the existing Environmental Strategy budget. One of the roles of the Executive is to develop a Finance Strategy for NAGA's ongoing work and development.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

The inaugural meeting of the NAGA Executive is scheduled for **9am Wednesday 22 July 2009, Brunswick Town Hall, 233 Sydney Road, Brunswick.**

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin's Climate Change Action Plan

Darebin's Community Climate Change Action Plan.

**Appendix A** - NAGA Executive Terms of Reference

**Appendix B** - NAGA Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

*Cr Tsitas returned to the meeting during discussion of this item – 8.18pm.*

**8.8 LANCASTER GATE COMMUNITY CENTRE – DELIVERY STRATEGY****MINUTE NO. 246****AUTHOR:** Manager Major Projects – Nick Mazzarella**MANAGER:** General Manager, Community Assets and Leisure – Geoff Glynn**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** \$4.9 million Federal Government – Community Infrastructure Program**\$1.2 million developer contributions from VicUrban (Lancaster Gate Estate) and Urban Pacific (Springthorpe Estate).****At least \$0.2 million from VicUrban (to be negotiated) for compensation to repair vandalism damage to building.****SUMMARY:**

Council has been successful in receiving a \$4.9 million Community Infrastructure Grant from the Commonwealth Government for the development of the Lancaster Gate Community Centre. A detailed consultation plan will involve the community over the next six months to confirm the range of community services and uses that could be provided in the new community centre.

Due to the tight timeframes required in the Commonwealth Funding Agreement, an accelerated delivery plan will ensure that preliminary works can commence in September 2009 with the main building works planned from January to June 2010. The Community Centre is proposed to be opened to the public in early 2011.

The due process and level of reporting for this Commonwealth Government funding will require Council to be responsive to meet the tight timeframe to ensure delivery to agreed milestones.

**CONSULTATION:**

Department of City Development  
Social Inclusion and Diversity Branch  
VicUrban  
Maddocks – Legal Advisors

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

**THAT** Council note this report regarding the proposed delivery strategy for the Lancaster Gate Community Centre.

**CARRIED**

**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

Council has been successful in receiving a \$4.9 million Community Infrastructure Grant from the Commonwealth Government (through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government) for the development of the Lancaster Gate Community Centre. The terms of the funding agreement requires Council to commence construction as soon as possible to enable expenditure of the grant in full by 30 June 2010. The total cost of the project is estimated to be approximately \$6.3 million, with the balance coming from developer contributions from VicUrban and Urban Pacific (Springthorpe) as part of the Lancaster Gate Estate.

This report provides an indicative outline of the delivery strategy for the Lancaster Gate Community Centre.

**CORE ISSUES****Consultation**

Council has identified a need to provide community services in the growing northern part of the municipality and is preparing to take possession of the former female ward of the Larundel Psychiatric Hospital to redevelop into a community centre. This double storey early 1900s brick building is in disrepair and will require substantial refurbishment.

While there has been no direct consultation with the community about the Community Centre to date, the recent North Eastern Suburb Name Review process has elicited a wide range of comments from residents about the need for local facilities and specifically about the community centre. Of the 43 submissions received to date concerning the suburb name change, 25 discuss the need for community facilities and 14 submissions mention the Community Centre specifically. Many of these residents have expressed interest in being involved in the development of the community centre.

A detailed consultation plan is being prepared which will involve the community over the next six months to confirm the range of community services and uses that could be provided in the new community centre. The consultation plan will allow for a focused community consultation process over the next few months to guide the dissemination of project information and consider feedback on key elements of the project. Regular briefings with the Ward Councillors and the Council will be scheduled throughout the project. This will assist in firming up the service plan for the new community centre and guide consultants in finalising the design documentation for the refurbishment works.

A service plan for the new community centre will also need to consider an appropriate management and operational model for the facility. This would include identifying the nature of operations, potential external service providers and the resourcing model required for the new centre. A further report will be provided to Council on this matter.

### Timeframes

The terms of the funding agreement with the Federal Government requires that preliminary construction works commence in September 2009 and that their \$4.9 million grant is expended by 30 June 2010. A conventional delivery process involving detailed design, bulk tender and a construction contract will take at least 18 months to complete and will not meet the obligations within the funding agreement. As such, an accelerated delivery plan is required to ensure that preliminary works can commence in September 2009 with the main building works planned from January to June 2010. This will require the bundling of works into separate packages to expedite the process and achieve the agreed timeframes in the funding agreement (see below).

Package	Item	Commencement
1	Clean up (debris & asbestos removal)	September 2009
2	Repair damage (windows, doors, etc)	October 2009
3	Building improvement works (structural, mechanical & electrical, DDA, etc)	January 2010
4	Car parking & landscaping	July 2010
5	Public access & utility services (by VicUrban)	September 2010

The community centre is proposed to be opened to the public in early 2011, however this will depend on the provision of utility services and public access on VicUrban's development site. However, there is a possibility that the VicUrban development will not be completed before the services and public access are required. As such, a new section 173 Agreement is currently being formulated with VicUrban to ensure that temporary access and services will be made available prior to the completion of the community centre.

As the project timeframe has been condensed, the accelerated delivery program for this significant project will require a responsive approval process for awarding contracts to consultants, contractors and suppliers for the package of works. It is expected that there could be five contract work packages valued in the order of \$0.3 million - \$0.5 million and one significant building contract for approximately \$3 million. As such, the administrative processes to award contracts in the Commonwealth Government's Funding Agreement and Council's usual business processes can become a significant time delay for the delivery of the project to the agreed timeframes.

The Funding Agreement with the Commonwealth Government requires Council to give 20 business days notice prior to entering into any contracts and allow 5 business days notice for them to give any prohibition notice or impose any terms and conditions. The reason for this is to ensure that Council has complied with relevant due processes for procurement under the *Local Government Act (Vic) 1989* and to ensure that contracts are not entered into with organisations that have been named by the Director of Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency as an employer currently not complying with the *Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Act 1999 (Cth)*.

Although not specified within the Funding Agreement, it seems possible for the Council tender assessment and contract award process to run in parallel with the Commonwealth Government's requirement to give them notice. However this will require additional administrative reporting to the Commonwealth Government for each contract and will require that all Council resolutions to award contracts be qualified until the end of the notice period.

The options available to Council for contract approvals are:

1. Ordinary Council Meetings. This would enable a 7 day turn-around for each contract approval and utilise existing administrative processes.
2. Special Council Meetings (in accordance with section 84 of the Local Government Act (*Vic*) 1989). This would enable a 7 day turn-around for each contract approval and utilise existing administrative processes.
3. Special Committee of Council (in accordance with section 86 of the Local Government Act (*Vic*) 1989). This would enable a 7 day turn-around for each contract approval. However, this would require new administrative processes that are more involved than the first two options.
4. Special delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into contracts up to a specified amount. This would enable an expeditious turnaround for contract approvals in much less than 7 days.

The due process and level of reporting for this Commonwealth Government funding is unprecedented and will require Council to be responsive to the tight timeframe to ensure delivery to agreed milestones. With this in mind, Council may need to consider a range of contract approval options to ensure an effective and responsive process. In the first instance, this will involve reporting to Ordinary Council Meetings on the progress and overall development of the Lancaster Gate Community Centre, However, Special Council Meetings may be called as required to ensure that contracts above the Chief Executive's Delegation can be considered expeditiously. The Special Council Meetings can be scheduled on the same day as the Council Briefing Sessions and items such as contractual matters will need to be closed to members of the public as discussions will involve confidential information.

### **Project Governance**

The delivery of this project will employ a robust governance framework that will include a risk management plan and a probity plan to the satisfaction of Council's Audit Committee and the Federal Government.

A planning permit will be required for the building and site improvement works. As Council will be both the proponent and the Planning Authority, there is a need to ensure an arms-length arrangement to ensure there are no perceived conflicts of interest. An external planning consultant will be appointed to assist Council in this regard.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Best practice sustainability principles will be used throughout the design, construction and operation to ensure that this community facility will have minimal impact on the environment. The development of the new community centre will incorporate high levels of environmentally sustainable design principles to ensure that water and energy consumption is reduced to a minimum. This will include specifying environmentally beneficial materials and products, including glazing, insulation, high efficiency heating ventilation and air conditioning, solar heating, water harvesting and reuse, flexible spaces that can be reconfigured, etc. Further details will be provided to Council once the design consultants are appointed and provide an initial report on the Environmental Sustainable Design opportunities.

**Social Inclusion and Diversity**

Darebin is demographically diverse and is steadily growing with a high proportion of young families, students and older residents from CALD communities. Residential development in the north of Darebin has resulted in significant population growth. There is a lack of community facilities in this growing residential area and the Lancaster Gate Community Centre will provide a space for community services as well as flexible meeting spaces for community groups. The new facility will be designed to ensure all ability access and be welcoming to different community groups.

**Other**

The proposed Lancaster Gate Community Centre is supported by the Council Plan 2009-2013 and in particular the strategies for the Community Wellbeing goal. The various processes that will be used in the development of the project will also be guided by various Council policies such as the Consultation Policy and Procedures (2008) and the Procurement Policy (1999).

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The development of the Lancaster Gate Community Centre is proposed to be delivered within the budget made available from the Commonwealth Government grant or the developer contributions to the project.

The compensation amount from VicUrban for the repair to the vandalism damage to the building will be negotiated upon execution of the section 173 Agreement. The final amount could be greater than the \$0.2 million estimate.

Additional human resources will be required to assist with the numerous milestone and project reports. There is provision within the available budget for a project support officer to be appointed.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Finalise and execute the section 173 Agreement with VicUrban.
- Finalise and implement the community consultation plan.
- Procure consultants to develop concepts and design documentation and facilitate the planning and construction of the new Community Centre.
- Commence planning for the cleanup and asbestos removal works.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- *Funding Agreement between the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government and Darebin City Council for the Lancaster Gate Community Centre, 15 June 2009 (Objective A727634)*
- Draft section 173 Agreement with VicUrban.
- *Lancaster Gate Development - Structural Advice Proposed Community Centre, GHD Pty Ltd, October 2004.*



- *Hazardous Materials Demolition Audit*, Noel Arnold & Associates, August 2004.
- *Proposed Community Centre at Lancaster Gate Housing Estate Cost Plan No 1*, Slattery Australia, July 2005.

**8.9 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND 'GENERAL BUSINESS' ITEMS OUTSTANDING**

MINUTE NO. 247

**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 June 2009.

**CONSULTATION:**

Executive Management Team

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

**THAT** the status report on Reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at June 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 June 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 3 August 2009.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Minutes of previous meetings of the Council.

**9. URGENT BUSINESS****9.1 PROPERTY MATTER – 44–46 JAMES STREET NORTHCOTE****MINUTE NO. 248**

*A report on this matter with a covering memorandum from the Acting Manager Customer and Civic Services circulated to Councillors on Friday 3 July 2009 indicated that it was proposed that the report be considered as urgent business at the Council meeting.*

*On the motion of Cr McCarthy, seconded by Cr. Greco, it was resolved that the item be dealt with at the meeting as a matter of urgent business.*

*On the motion of Cr McCarthy, seconded by Cr Katsis, it was further resolved that the item be referred to the “Consideration of Reports considered Confidential” section of the Agenda Paper (Item 11) for Council to consider dealing with as additional Item 11.6.*

**10. GENERAL BUSINESS****10.1 EAST RESERVOIR RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT****MINUTE NO. 249**

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. S. Chiang

**SECONDED:** Cr. G. Greco

**THAT** Council Officers provided an update report to Council on the East Reservoir Re-development Project

**CARRIED**

**10.2 CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEMES****MINUTE NO. 250**

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>
---------------------------

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**SECONDED:** Cr. G. Greco

**THAT** Council write to the Senate Inquiry into container deposit schemes affirming Council’s support for such a scheme in accordance with Council’s previous resolution of 6 April 2009 supporting the introduction of a container deposit scheme

**CARRIED**

**11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL****CLOSE OF MEETING****MOVED: Cr.****SECONDED: Cr.**

**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 a contractual matter, proposed development or matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or persons:

- 11.1 Right of Way (Road) Discontinuance rear 110 Hughes Parade and adjoining 1 and 3 Wellman Street, Reservoir.
- 11.2 Proposed Sale of Land from Discontinued Road rear 20 Lowther Street, Alphington.
- 11.3 Pathway Maintenance and Support.
- 11.4 Preston Civic Precinct – Property Matter.
- 11.5 Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups.

*An additional Item 11.6 - Property matter - 44-46 James Street Northcote - had earlier been resolved by Council be referred to the "Consideration of Reports considered Confidential" section of the Agenda Paper for Council to consider dealing with as additional Item 11.6 (see Minute No. 248).*

**CLOSE OF MEETING****MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas****SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy**

**THAT** in accordance with section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to a contractual matter, proposed development or matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or persons:

- 11.1 Right of Way (Road) Discontinuance rear 110 Hughes Parade and adjoining 1 and 3 Wellman Street, Reservoir.
- 11.2 Proposed Sale of Land from Discontinued Road rear 20 Lowther Street, Alphington.
- 11.3 Pathway Maintenance and Support.
- 11.6 Property matter 44 - 46 James Street Northcote.

**CARRIED**

The meeting was closed to members of the public at 8.40pm.

*The Council considered and resolved on Report Items 11.1 (Right of Way (Road) Discontinuance rear 110 Hughes Parade and adjoining 1 and 3 Wellman Street, Reservoir), 11.2 (Proposed Sale of Land from Discontinued Road rear 20 Lowther Street, Alphington ), 11.3 ( Pathway Maintenance and Support) which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 2 July 2009 and 11.6 (Property matter 44-46 James Street Northcote) which had been circulated to Councillors on Friday 3 July 2009.*

#### **RE-OPENING OF MEETING**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**SECONDED:** Cr. G. Greco

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 8.48pm.

**CONFIDENTIAL****11.1 RIGHT OF WAY (ROAD) DISCONTINUANCE REAR 110 HUGHES PARADE AND ADJOINING 1 AND 3 WELLMAN STREET, RESERVOIR**

MINUTE NO. 251

**AUTHOR:** Property Officer, Asset Strategy – Kristie Berry**MANAGER:** Acting Manager Asset Strategy – Anita Craven**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Net income from the sale of the land during 2009/2010 is estimated at \$905.**SUMMARY:**

This report recommends that Council commence the statutory procedures for the discontinuance and sale of the 3.05m wide right of way (road) at the rear of 110 Hughes Parade and adjoining 1 and 3 Wellman Street, Reservoir, and to also consider a departure from its policy guidelines in regard to the sale of the land from the road.

**CONSULTATION:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

**THAT** the following Council Resolution:

*That Council:*

- (1) *Commence the statutory procedures under section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 1989 (“the Act”) to discontinue the road at the rear of 110 Hughes Parade and adjoining 1 and 3 Wellman Street, Reservoir, shown hatched on the plan attached as Appendix A to this report.*

- (2) *Give public notice under Sections 207A and 223 of the Act of the proposed discontinuance in the appropriate newspapers and such notice state that if discontinued, Council proposes to sell the land from the road.*
- (3) *Agree to depart from its policy guidelines and authorise the General Manager Community Assets and Leisure to negotiate and finalise the sale of the land from the road, if discontinued, to the owners of 3 Wellman Street, Reservoir, for the sum of \$8,000 (inc GST).*

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

**CARRIED**



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**CONFIDENTIAL****11.2 PROPOSED SALE OF LAND FROM DISCONTINUED ROAD  
REAR 20 LOWTHER STREET, ALPHINGTON.**

MINUTE NO. 252

**AUTHOR:** Property Officer, Asset Strategy – Kristie Berry**MANAGER:** Acting Manager Asset Strategy – Anita Craven**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Net income from the sale of the land during 2009/2010 is estimated at \$4,495**SUMMARY:**

This report recommends that Council consider a departure from its policy guidelines in regard to the sale of the land from the discontinued road adjoining the rear of 20 Lowther Street, Alphington.

**CONSULTATION:**

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

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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**THAT** the Council Resolution be made available to the public but the report remain confidential

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. T. McCarthy**SECONDED:** Cr. S. Chiang**THAT** the following Council Resolution:

*That Council agree to depart from its policy guidelines and authorize the General Manager Community Assets and Leisure to negotiate the sale of the land from the discontinued road adjoining the rear of 20 Lowther Street, Alphington, shown as Lot 2 on Title Plan TP917522T on the plan attached as Appendix B, to the owner of that property for the sum of \$8,500.00 (inc GST), as offered by the owner.*

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

**CARRIED**

**CONFIDENTIAL****11.3 PATHWAY MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT****MINUTE NO. 253****AUTHOR: Manager Information Systems - Pradeep Agrawal****MANAGER: General Manager Corporate Services - Bruce Dobson****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Within Operating Budget for 2009-2010****SUMMARY:**

Pathway is one of Council's core information systems and is an essential tool for raising rates and other revenue. At Council's meeting held on 17 August 1998, authorisation was given for the purchase of the current Property and Rates system. A maintenance and support fee has been paid each year since implementation in early 1999.

As the amount of the maintenance and support fee for the 2009-2010 year is greater than \$150,000, Council approval of this expenditure is required.

**CONSULTATION:**

- Information Services Branch
- General Manager Corporate Services

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas****SECONDED: Cr. S. Chiang****THAT** the following Council Resolution:

*That Council approve expenditure of \$163,316.09 (excluding GST) for maintenance and support of the Pathway System for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.*

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

**CARRIED**

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*ON THE MOTION OF CR. TSITAS, SECONDED BY CR. MCCARTHY, IT HAD EARLIER BEEN RESOLVED THAT THIS ITEM (11.6) BE CONSIDERED AFTER ITEM 11.3.*

**11.6 PROPERTY MATTER – 44-46 JAMES STREET NORTHCOTE**

**MINUTE NO. 254**

**AUTHOR: Property Manager – Jennifer Paterson**

**MANAGER: Acting Manager Assets Strategy – Anita Craven**

**BUDGET  
IMPLICATIONS: Positive**

**SUMMARY:**

This report relates to a property matter involving 44 – 46 James Street Northcote.

**CONSULTATION:**

Statutory Planning Unit  
Maddocks Lawyers  
Russell Kennedy Lawyers

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas  
SECONDED: Cr. S. Chiang**

**THAT** the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

**CARRIED**

*Cr Katsis disclosed a conflict of interest in Report Item 11.4 (Preston Civic Precinct – Property Matter), classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association and describing the nature of the interest as that he has a relative who owns property in the Preston Civic Precinct area. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 8.50pm*

### **CLOSE OF MEETING**

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

**THAT** in accordance with section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to a contractual matter, proposed development or matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or persons:

11.4 Preston Civic Precinct – Property Matter

**CARRIED**

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.52pm.

*The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 11.4 (Preston Civic Precinct – Property Matter) which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 3 July 2009.*

### **RE-OPENING OF MEETING**

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

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 8.54pm.

**CONFIDENTIAL****11.4 PRESTON CIVIC PRECINCT – PROPERTY MATTER**

MINUTE NO. 255

**AUTHOR:** Manager Major Projects – Nick Mazarella**MANAGER:** Acting General Manager City Development – Michael Ballock**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Outlined in the confidential report**SUMMARY:**

This report relates to a property matter in the Preston Civic Precinct area.

**CONSULTATION:**

Outlined in the confidential report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

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

**THAT** the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

**CARRIED**

*Cr Katsis returned to the meeting – 8.55pm.*

*The Mayor, Cr Asmar, disclosed a conflict of interest in Report Item 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups) classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association and describing the nature of the interest as that she has a relative who owns property and lives in the area affected by the project. She left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 8.56pm.*

*Cr Katsis disclosed a conflict of interest in Report Item 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups) classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association and describing the nature of the interest as that he has a relative who owns property in the area affected by the project. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 8.56pm.*

*Cr Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in Report Item 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups) classifying the type of interest as a direct interest and describing the nature of the interest as that he operates a medical clinic in the area affected by the project. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 8.56pm.*

*Cr Tsitas disclosed a conflict of interest in Report Item 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Group) classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association and describing the nature of the interest as that he has a relative who owns property and operates businesses in the area affected by the project. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 8.56pm.*

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

Cr. Fontana assumed the Chair.

#### **CLOSE OF MEETING**

**MOVED:** Cr. G. Greco

**SECONDED:** Cr. T. McCarthy

**THAT** in accordance with section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to a contractual matter, proposed development or matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or persons:

11.5 Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Group

**CARRIED**

The meeting was closed to the public at 8.58pm.

*The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 11.5 (Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project – Community Reference Groups) which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 3 July 2009.*

**RE-OPENING OF MEETING**

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

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 8.59pm.

**CONFIDENTIAL****11.5 TRAM ROUTE 86 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT –  
COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUPS****MINUTE NO. 256****AUTHOR: Transport Strategy Coordinator - Kate Downward****MANAGER: Manager, Transport Management - Daniel Kollmorgen****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Within current budget allocation****SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 1 June 2009, Council adopted a Forward Plan for the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project that included the formation of Community Reference Groups (CRGs). A process was put in place to ensure thousands of Darebin residents were aware of the forward plan and the nomination process.

A total of 46 nominations were received for 40 places on four Community Reference Groups (Westgarth, Northcote, Thornbury and Plenty Road). This report identifies the nominees proposed for inclusion in the groups and the process that was conducted to recommend those nominees.

This report has been made **confidential** due to Council's commitment to nominees that only successful nominees names would be released to the public. Only following the discussion of the report by Councillors and agreement on the make-up of the Community Reference Groups will the report be made public. Appendices containing lists of nominees and their nomination forms will remain confidential to protect their privacy.

**CONSULTATION:**

The following methods were utilised to ensure a vast cross-section of the community was aware of the Community Reference Group nomination process:

- Call for nominations by letter to all properties within a 1 kilometre distance either side of the corridor (approximately 26,000 properties) informing occupants of the project, the Community Consultation Report availability and the process for nominating for the CRGs.
- Advertising in the Northcote and Preston Leader.
- Letter to all absentee owners of property facing High Street and Plenty Road
- Letter to all older adult groups, schools and kindergartens within the municipality as well as disability service providers, local Members of Parliament and stakeholder groups (neighbourhood houses, health providers, environment groups, transport providers etc.) across the region.
- Contact with all residents/persons who were involved in the March/April 2009 consultation and left their contact details.



**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Council Resolution and the report (excluding Appendices A and B) be made available to the public.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED:** Cr. T. Laurence

**SECONDED:** Cr. G. Greco

**THAT** the Council Resolution and the attached report (excluding the Appendices) be made available to the public.

**CARRIED**

**11.5 TRAM ROUTE 86 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT –  
COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUPS****AUTHOR:** Transport Strategy Coordinator - Kate Downward**MANAGER:** Manager, Transport Management - Daniel Kollmorgen**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within current budget allocation**SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 1 June 2009, Council adopted a Forward Plan for the Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project that included the formation of Community Reference Groups (CRGs). A process was put in place to ensure thousands of Darebin residents were aware of the forward plan and the nomination process.

A total of 46 nominations were received for 40 places on four Community Reference Groups (Westgarth, Northcote, Thornbury and Plenty Road). This report identifies the nominees proposed for inclusion in the groups and the process that was conducted to recommend those nominees.

This report has been made **confidential** due to Council's commitment to nominees that only successful nominees names would be released to the public. Only following the discussion of the report by Councillors and the agreement on the make-up of the Community Reference Groups will the report be made public. Appendices containing lists of nominees and their nomination forms will remain confidential to protect their privacy.

**CONSULTATION:**

The following methods were utilised to ensure a vast cross-section of the community was aware of the Community Reference Group nomination process:

- Call for nominations by letter to all properties within a 1 kilometre distance either side of the corridor (approximately 26,000 properties) informing occupants of the project, the Community Consultation Report availability and the process for nominating for the CRGs.
- Advertising in the Northcote and Preston Leader.
- Letter to all absentee owners of property facing High Street and Plenty Road
- Letter to all older adult groups, schools and kindergartens within the municipality as well as disability service providers, local Members of Parliament and stakeholder groups (neighbourhood houses, health providers, environment groups, transport providers etc.) across the region.
- Contact with all residents/persons who were involved in the March/April 2009 consultation and left their contact details.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT:**

- (1) Council appoints ..... as members of the Westgarth Community Reference Group
- (2) Council appoints ..... as members of the Northcote Community Reference Group
- (3) Council appoints ..... as members of the Thornbury Community Reference Group
- (4) Council appoints ..... as members of the Plenty Road Community Reference Group
- (5) The Mayor write to each nominee informing them of the outcome of the process and thank all nominees for the time and effort to take part in this nomination process, regardless if they were successful or not.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

**THAT:**

- (1) Council appoints the following as members of the Westgarth Community Reference Group:

Westgarth Cinema  
John Crogan  
Simon Batterbury  
Michael Moran  
Brendan Geary  
David Cheal  
Annie Russell

- (2) Council appoints the following as members of the Northcote Community Reference Group:

Rob Seale  
Daryl Colless  
Alison Breach  
Diane Gardiner  
Nicole Oke

Andrew McAdam

Kate Sieh

Sarah Haq

Carmen Rizzo

- (3) Council appoints the following as members of the Thornbury Community Reference Group:

John Psarakos

Bill Christidis

Nick Nicholaou

Harry Cadle

Rowena Archer JP

Gary Wissenden

- (4) Council appoints the following as members of the Plenty Road Community Reference Group:

Ray Jordan

George Kirby

Carla Sala

Alan Jager

Jane Pearson

Mandy Baird

Tony Kouroumbilis

Craig O'Donnell

George Psaila

Peter Caulfield

- (5) The Mayor write to each nominee informing them of the outcome of the process and thank all nominees for the time and effort to take part in this nomination process, regardless if they were successful or not.

**CARRIED**

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**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

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

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

The proposal for the 6.8km corridor was presented to the community in March/April to ascertain their level of support.

**CORE ISSUES**

The establishment of four CRGs was adopted by Council at its meeting on 1 June 2009 – one for each of the defined sections of the corridor: Westgarth, Northcote, Thornbury and Plenty Road.

As adopted, the Terms of Reference for the CRGs state that there needs to be a mix of representatives from the community. The proposed make up of each CRG is of:

- Two residents on the High Street/Plenty Road corridor
- One resident in a side street off the corridor
- Two business owners on the corridor
- One business owner in a side street off the High Street / Plenty Road corridor
- A representative with a mobility impairment
- A representative of any major trip generators in the area (schools, churches etc.)
- Two other candidates with special interests possibly including public transport users, cyclist, elderly, youth etc.

Less than ten nominations were received for the Westgarth, Northcote and Thornbury groups. The recommendation is to adopt all nominees for each of these groups.

A total of 25 nominations were received for the Plenty Road group. Not all categories received the number of nominations required to fill the category. In these cases it is suggested the 'spare' spaces be assigned to business representatives due the amount of interest shown by businesses.

In determining recommendations, the categories adopted through the Terms of Reference were utilised as well as a geographic spread along the corridor and balance on each side of the road.

CRGs will operate for approximately four meetings, held fortnightly over July, August and early September 2009. They will be staffed by Transport Management Branch officers and facilitated by trained facilitators sourced from across Council. The use of internal Council facilitators as opposed to independent facilitators proved to be a real asset in the March/April consultation process as they were more aware of Council processes and better able to respond to the community.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environmental Sustainability**

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

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

### **Social Inclusion and Diversity**

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

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

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

### **Other**

The Darebin Transport Strategy contains direction on road space allocation and the provision of priority to different modes of transport in different land use settings. The Tram Route 86 Corridor Improvement Project utilises the principle of road space allocation from the Darebin Transport Strategy with an eye to improving public transport along a designated public transport corridor and improving the pedestrian environment within our busy Activity Centres.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

## **FUTURE ACTIONS**

Briefings to Council will be scheduled over the course of the Community Reference Groups to keep Council informed of the progress.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Transport Strategy, 2007-2027

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

*The Mayor, Cr Asmar, Cr Chiang, Cr Katsis and Cr Tsitas returned to the meeting – 9.08pm.*

*The Mayor, Cr Asmar, resumed the Chair.*

**12. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm