



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

MONDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2010

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2010

Table of Contents

Item Number	Page Number
1. PRESENT.....	1
2. APOLOGIES	1
3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	1
4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS	2
5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS.....	3
5.1 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN	3
5.2 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO.....	3
5.3 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY	3
5.4 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG	4
5.5 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSIS	4
5.6 REPORT OF CR. DIANA ASMAR.....	4
5.7 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE.....	4
5.8 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS.....	5
5.9 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. FONTANA.....	5
6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.....	6
7. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS.....	7
7.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD	7
8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS	14
8.1 FINANCIAL REPORT – 4 MONTHS ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2010.....	14
8.2 MEMBERSHIP OF VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE ASSOCIATION.....	17
8.3 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP	19
8.4 DAREBIN HERITAGE STUDY AND HOUSING COMMISSION OF VICTORIA ESTATES.....	22
8.5 UPDATE FOR THE RESERVOIR STRUCTURE PLAN PROJECT	30
8.6 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2009-2013 PROGRESS REPORT 2010	38
8.7 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN COUNCIL OPERATIONS ANNUAL REVIEW.....	49
8.8 COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW	60
8.9 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND 'GENERAL BUSINESS' ITEMS OUTSTANDING.....	72
9. URGENT BUSINESS.....	74
10. GENERAL BUSINESS.....	74
10.1 LOW COST HOUSING	74
11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL.....	74

Table of Contents

Item Number	Page Number
12. CLOSE OF MEETING.....	74

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2010**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00 P.M.

1. PRESENT

Councillors

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

Council Officers

Rasiah Dev – Chief Executive
Michael Ballock – Director City Works and Development
Bruce Dobson – Director Corporate and Business Services
Adrian Burns – Acting Director City Design and Environment
Libby Hynes – Manager Environment and Natural Resources
Sally Curran – Governance Manager
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas

SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 3 November 2010 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 409

5.1 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN

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

- Council Briefing Session.
- Darebin Homemade Beer and Wine Festival.
- Usual constituent matters.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Darebin Homemade Beer and Wine Festival.
- Radio interview with 'ABC Radio' regarding the Darebin Homemade Beer and Wine Festival.
- Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review Workshop.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Darebin Youth Centre – Pre-employment skill program.
- Resident matters.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review Workshop.
- Planning Committee meeting
- Council Briefing Session.
- Meeting with the new President of the Northcote Business Association.
- Discussion with yUTE Crew staff.
- Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council November meeting (adjourned)
- Resident and trader issues.

Cr. McCarthy also informed the meeting that he was standing as 'The Greens' candidate for Preston at the State Election on 27 November 2010.

5.4 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG

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

- White Ribbon – Leaders Luncheon.
- Art Show called 'My Dreams' featuring visual and hearing impaired artists from China.
- Council Briefing Session.

5.5 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSIS

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

- Council Briefing Session.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Lebanese Festival at Edwardes Lake Park.
- 26th anniversary of Melbourne Thessaloniki Sister City Relationship.
- Usual constituent matters.

5.6 REPORT OF CR. DIANA ASMAR

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

- Site meetings with traders.
- Lebanese Festival at Edwardes Lake Park.
- Fundraiser – Nathan Murphy MLC, Member for Northern Metropolitan Region Electorate.
- Launch of the Leisure Strategy.
- Book Launch – Northcote Town Hall.
- Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review Workshop.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Briefing Session.
- Mayor's Ball – City of Maroondah.
- Launch of Inscribe at Northcote Town Hall.
- Finance briefing.

5.7 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review Workshop.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Inspection of main Sewer breach in Merrilands Estate with residents and Council officers.

- Inspection of litter trap failure on Edgars Creek with residents and Council officers.
- Remembrance Day ceremony.
- Macedonian pensioners luncheon - Gertz Avenue Reservoir.

5.8 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

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

- Council Briefing Session.
- Chaired Darebin Early Years Reference Group meeting.
- Usual constituent matters.

5.9 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. FONTANA

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

- Hosted Metropolitan Transport Forum.
- Municipal Association of Victoria State Conference.
- Preston Business Advisory Committee meeting.
- Launched Darebin/Whittlesea Interfaith mentoring project.
- Hosted the Italian Senior Citizen Clubs of Darebin Health Forum at Furlan Club.
- Darebin Homemade Beer and Wine Festival.
- AFL Coaches Awards Dinner.
- Watsonia RSL - Cherry Street memorial for Remembrance Day.
- Visited Northcote Cricket Club.
- Meeting with officials from Football Federation of Victoria regarding proposed capital improvements to John Cain Park.
- Delivered a presentation to NMIT students.
- Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review Workshop.
- Certificate Presentation for volunteers at Darebin Community Health.
- Darebin Information and Volunteers Resource Service (DIVRS) Annual General Meeting and launch of strategic plan.
- Launched the Leisure Strategy at Northcote Town Hall.
- Darebin RSL Remembrance Day Service.
- East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal traineeship program - certificate presentation to graduates.
- Save Water National Awards.
- Bundoora Park Thunderbolts Junior Football Club information day.
- Community Briefing at La Trobe University.
- Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Council information discussion.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

MINUTE NO. 410

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

The following questions were submitted:

- Stephen Mayne of Templestowe asked questions relating to the following:
 - Darebin Council adopting Moreland Council's imposition of special rates on poker machine venues in 2011-2012 and defending the right of Council to impose such charges.
 - Adoption of Hume and Moreland Councils' Councillor expenses disclosure model.
 - Protocols followed by Cr. McCarthy as a sitting Councillor and candidate for State Parliament.

The questions were responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Fontana, who indicated that a written response would be forwarded in relation to the first two (2) specific questions asked. The Mayor, Cr. Fontana, declined to accept the last specific question asked.

- Keith Coffey of Reservoir asked a question about grass cutting and collection of rubbish at several locations in the City of Darebin. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Fontana, who indicated that the matter would be addressed.
- Mark Ognenis of Reservoir asked a question about the existence of old television sets on several nature strips in the City of Darebin. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Fontana, who indicated that the matter would be addressed.
- Annett Sinclair of Reservoir asked questions relating to the following:
 - Provision of information to residents regarding rubbish collection.
 - Response regarding a previous question asked at Public Question Time.

The questions were responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Fontana, who indicated that written responses would be forwarded.

- S'hi D'Amour of Reservoir asked a question about the status of the 'Ruthven Storytelling Garden'. The Mayor, Cr. Fontana, indicated that a written response would be forwarded.
- S'hi D'Amour of Reservoir asked a question about nature strip maintenance in the City of Darebin. The Mayor, Cr. Fontana, indicated that a written response would be forwarded.

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

7. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

7.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD

MINUTE NO. 411

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in section 76AA of the *Local Government Act 1989* to include Advisory Committees of Council if at least one Councillor is present or, a planned or scheduled meeting attended by at least half of the Councillors and one Council Officer that considers matters intended or likely to be the subject of a council decision.

Written records of Assemblies of Councillors must be kept and include the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending, the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending, and whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

Pursuant to section 80A (2) of the Act, these records must be, as soon as practicable, reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

An Assembly of Councillors record was kept for:

- Darebin Local Safety Committee – 21 October 2010
- Preston Business Advisory Committee – 3 November 2010
- Planning Committee Briefing Session – 8 November 2010
- Councillor Briefing Session – 8 November 2010
- Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review – 8 November 2010
- Darebin Early Years Reference Group – 9 November 2010

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the records of Assemblies of Councillors held on 21 October, 3, 8 and 9 November 2010 be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the records of Assemblies of Councillors held on 21 October, 3, 8 and 9 November 2010 be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting, with the inclusion of apologies lodged by Councillors Chiang and Morgan for their inability to attend the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review meeting held on 8 November 2010.

CARRIED



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Local Safety Committee
	Date:	21 October 2010
	Location:	Function Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Vince Fontana
	Council Staff:	Rhys Thomas, Nik Filips, Melissah Morrison, Angela Del Monte, Jess Fraser
	Other:	Representatives from: Victoria Police, SES, Reservoir Community Corrections, RMIT University,
APOLOGIES:		

The Assembly commenced at 10 am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Organisation Overview	No disclosures were made.
2	Alcohol Restricted Zones	No disclosures were made.
3	Youth Services Outreach program	No disclosures were made.
4	Darebin Safe Travel Strategy	No disclosures were made.
5	City of Darebin Health Committee	No disclosures were made.
6	Darebin Youth Summit 2010	No disclosures were made.
7	Activities Updates	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 12.30 pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Rhys Thomas
	Officer Title:	Manager Business Improvement Acting Manager Community Planning, Partnerships and Performance





ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Preston Business Advisory Committee
	Date:	Wednesday 3 November 2010
	Location:	Fire Station Café, High Street, Preston
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Vince Fontana (Mayor),
	Council Staff:	Eddy Boscariol, Phillip Loader, Sarah-Jade Chung
	Other:	Representatives of Westpac Bank, Bendigo Bank, Commonwealth Bank, local business owners
APOLOGIES:		

The Assembly commenced at 4:00 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Marketing Report	No disclosures were made
2	Professional Development Future Events	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 5:00pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Phill Loader
	Officer Title:	Coordinator Business Development

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Manager Corporate Governance within 3 working days for inclusion in a register available for public inspection.



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Planning Committee Briefing Session
	Date:	8 November 2010
	Location:	Councillor Meeting Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Tim Laurence, Cr Diana Asmar, Cr Gaetano Greco, Cr Trent McCarthy and Cr Nick Katsis
	Council Staff:	Darren Rudd, Peter Rollis
APOLOGIES:		

The Assembly commenced at 5.24pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Application for Planning Permit – 10/131 Plenty Road Preston	No disclosures were made.
2	Application for Planning Permit – 11A Archbold Street Thornbury	No disclosures were made.
3	Application for Planning Permit – 4 Henry Street Reservoir	No disclosures were made.

The Assembly concluded at 5.30

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Darren Rudd
	Officer Title:	Manager City Development



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	8 November 2010
	Location:	Conference Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Vince Fontana (Mayor), Cr Diana Asmar, Cr Steven Tsitas, Cr Ben Morgan, Cr Gaetano Greco, Cr Trent McCarthy, Cr Stanley Chiang, Cr Nick Katsis
	Council Staff:	Rasiah Dev, Bruce Dobson, Michael Ballock, Adrian Burns, Libby Hynes (item 1), Michelle Bennett (item 1), Kerrie Jordan (item 3)
APOLOGIES:		Cr Tim Laurence

The Assembly commenced at 7pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Climate Change and Community Climate Change Action Plans	No disclosures were made.
2	Status Report on John Cain Memorial Masterplan	No disclosures were made.
3	Rating Strategy Review	No disclosures were made. Cr Asmar, Cr Katsis and Cr McCarthy left the briefing during the discussion of this item and did not return.
4	Darebin Heritage Study and Housing Commission Victoria Estates	No disclosures were made.

The Assembly concluded at 8.45pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Bruce Dobson
	Officer Title:	Director Corporate and Business Services



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Review
	Date:	Monday 8 November 2010
	Location:	Conference Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Vince Fontana (Mayor), Cr Diana Asmar, Cr Tim Laurence, Cr Trent McCarthy and Cr Gaetano Greco
	Council Staff:	Michael Ballock Darren Rudd, Mei Lee and Vige Satkunarajah
	Apologies:	Cr Steven Tsitas, Cr Nick Katsis, Cr Stanley Chiang** and Cr Ben Morgan**

**** Note:** *The Record of this Assembly on 8 November 2010 was amended at the Council meeting on 15 November 2010 to include Crs Chiang and Morgan as Apologies – see Minute No. 411 (Page 7)*

The Assembly commenced at 4pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Discussion of the issues raised from the MSS Review report.	No disclosures were made.

The Assembly concluded at 5.30 pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Michael Ballock
	Officer Title:	Director City Works and Development



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Early Years Reference Group
	Date:	Tuesday 9 November 2010
	Location:	Council Chambers, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Steven Tsitas
	Council Staff:	Katrina Knox Cheryl Hermence, Sharyn Scott, Jane Carmichael, Louise Hoffer
	Other:	Representatives of Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Northern Metropolitan Region and other local early years agencies.
APOLOGIES:		Cr Nick Katsis, Cr Dianna Asmar

The Assembly commenced at 3.30pm

Cr. Tsitas noted an interest (that is not a conflict of interest) in all matters concerned early years services in that he has young children who have accessed early years services in Darebin.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Terms of reference of the Darebin Early Years Reference Group	No disclosures were made
2	Developing a Vision Statement for Darebin Early Years Framework	No disclosures were made
3	Data Informing Early Years Planning.	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 5.00pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Sharyn Scott
	Officer Title:	Early Years and Education Planner

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

8.1 FINANCIAL REPORT – 4 MONTHS ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2010

MINUTE NO. 412

AUTHOR: Financial Accountant – Michael O’Riordan

REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Business Services – Bruce Dobson

SUMMARY:

A comprehensive financial review has been undertaken for the four months ended 31 October 2010 to assess the financial performance of Council year-to-date. The outcome of the review indicates that Council has achieved a YTD operating surplus of \$58.5 million and capital works expenditure of \$5.7 million. All material variations have been explained in the report.

CONSULTATION:

Managers and Coordinators.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the contents of the “Financial Report for the four months ended 31 October 2010” included as **Appendix A** to this report be received and the year-to-date actual and budget operating and capital results be noted.

CARRIED

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Under the Local Government Act 1989, at least every three months the Chief Executive Officer is required to present to the Council a statement comparing the budgeted with the actual revenues and expenses for the financial year to date. In complying with the Act, the attached report (see **Appendix A**) compares the actual and budgeted operating revenues and expenses and the actual and budgeted capital revenues and expenses for the four months ended 31 October 2010. It also compares the actual and budgeted movements in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement for that period.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Operating Performance

The Operating Performance for the four months ended 31 October 2010 is an operating surplus before capital revenue and other items of \$58.1 million, which is \$5.1 million ahead of budget. The main items contributing to this favorable variance are contributions, operating and capital grants and contributions, other revenue, employee benefits, material and services, depreciation and other expenses offset by unfavorable variances in user fees and statutory fees and fines. After capital and other items, the operating surplus is \$58.5 million, which is \$5.5 million ahead of budget.

Capital Performance

The Capital Performance for the four months ended 31 October 2010 shows that a total of \$5.7 million has been expended on the capital works program, which is \$3.6 million behind the budget. The variance is due mainly to timing differences on the roads and building works projects and purchase of plant and equipment. The 'adjusted budget' represents the adopted budget adjusted for additional capital works carried over from the 2009/10 year.

Financial Position

The Financial Position as at 31 October 2010 shows a cash balance of \$39.2 million which is \$6.3 million ahead of budget. The variance is due mainly to the higher opening cash position compared with budget and timing differences in government receipts, payments to suppliers and employees and purchase of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment. The net current asset position is \$81.2 million which is \$9.5 million more than budget. The variance is due mainly to the higher cash position and lower trade and other payables position compared with budget. The net asset position is \$979.2 million, which is \$7.7 million ahead of budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Financial Report for the four months ended 31 October 2010 shows that Council's YTD operating result is a surplus of \$58.5 million and \$5.7 million has been expended on capital works.

FUTURE ACTIONS

A further financial report will be presented to Council for the five months ending 30 November 2010.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Nil.

8.2 MEMBERSHIP OF VICTORIAN LOCAL GOVERNANCE ASSOCIATION**MINUTE NO. 413****AUTHOR: Director Corporate and Business Services – Bruce Dobson****REVIEWED BY: Chief Executive – Rasiah Dev****SUMMARY:**

In June 2010 Council resolved to suspend its membership of the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) and the VLGA was advised accordingly. Following further discussions and consideration this report recommends that Council renew its membership of the VLGA.

CONSULTATION:

Mayor
Executive Management Team

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council write to the Victorian Local Governance Association seeking renewal of its membership.

CARRIED**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

In June 2010 Council resolved to suspend its membership of the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) and the VLGA was advised accordingly.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The VLGA is a peak body for councillors, community leaders and local governments working to build and strengthen their capacity to work together for progressive social change.

Since the notification of suspension of membership there have been further discussions between Council and the VLGA. As a result of these discussions, and agreement for further cooperation with respect to Darebin Council specific issues, together with broader consideration of the merits of membership, it is recommended that Council now advise the VLGA that it wishes to renew its membership.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The VLGA is a peak body for councillors, community leaders and local governments working to build and strengthen their capacity to work together for progressive social change.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The annual VLGA membership fee is included in the adopted 2010/2011 Council Budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

If the recommendation is adopted Council will write to the VLGA seeking renewal of its membership.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 June 2010

8.3 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**MINUTE NO. 414****AUTHOR: Director Corporate and Business Services – Bruce Dobson****REVIEWED BY: Chief Executive – Rasiah Dev****SUMMARY:**

In November 2008 Council appointed Ms Merran Kelsall as a member of the Audit Committee for a term of two years with an option, by mutual consent, for a further two year term.

This report recommends that the option to extend Ms Kelsall's appointment to November 2012 be exercised by Council. Ms Kelsall has indicated that she would be available to continue as a member of the Committee as proposed.

CONSULTATION:

Mayor and Councillors
Executive Management Team

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council exercise its option to extend the appointment of Ms Merran Kelsall to Council's Audit Committee through to November 2012.

CARRIED**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Audit Committee is an Advisory Committee of Council appointed pursuant to sections 86 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1989 to assist Council in fulfilling its responsibilities relating to internal control mechanisms and external reporting requirements. Members of the Committee are appointed by Council resolution.

Membership of the Committee currently comprises two Councillors (Cr Vince Fontana and Cr Diana Asmar) and three external members, Ms Merran Kelsall, Mr Albert Zago and Mr David Ashmore.

Ms Kelsall was appointed to the Audit Committee in November 2008 for a term of two years with an option, by mutual consent, for a further two year term. Ms Kelsall has served on the Committee since 2004. Mr Zago and Mr Ashmore were appointed in February 2010 also for an initial two year term with an option for a further two years.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Ms Kelsall is a highly qualified and experienced independent company director and consultant. Originally qualified as a chartered accountant, she worked in a professional practice, including as a partner for ten years. She has considerable experience in the work of audit, risk and compliance committees.

Current board positions occupied by Ms Kelsall include Chair Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, Chair Public Transport Industry Ombudsman (Victoria), Director RACV Limited, Director Melbourne Water Corporation, Director Cuscal Limited and Trustee National Gallery of Victoria. Ms Kelsall has experience in a range of private and public sector industries.

Ms Kelsall had made a strong contribution to Council's Audit Committee and has brought both a commercial and technical focus to her role. She has indicated that she would be available to continue as a member of the Committee for the further two year period which is available to be exercised by mutual consent.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

The Audit Committee plays an important role in supporting Council in its promise in the Council Plan 2009-2013 of being a *democratic and accountable local government*. In particular, the Committee supports Council's goal of *leadership and engagement*, through the strategy of *governing the municipality in a transparent and accountable manner, and providing regular and accurate reporting to the community*.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

External Audit Committee members currently receive an allowance of \$4,000 per annum and the Chair of the Committee receives \$6,000 per annum. These allowance levels have been in place since December 2005 and were confirmed by Council at its meeting on 16 February 2009, with the next review of allowances scheduled to take place as at 1 January 2011.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Review of Audit Committee external member allowances to take place effective 1 January 2011.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 February 2010
Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 November 2008
Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 December 2005

It was drawn to attention at the meeting that Cr. Greco, not Cr. Fontana, is a member of the Audit Committee as recorded in the report.

8.4 DAREBIN HERITAGE STUDY AND HOUSING COMMISSION OF VICTORIA ESTATES**MINUTE NO. 415****AUTHOR: Strategic Planner – Maree Fewster****REVIEWED BY: Michael Ballock – Director City Services and Development****SUMMARY:**

Council at its meeting on 3 November 2010 most recently considered a report on this matter and resolved to refer the matter to a Council Briefing Session and subsequent Council meeting.

The matter is now brought back to Council following discussion at the Council Briefing Session on 8 November 2010.

A number of Housing Commission of Victoria (HCV) housing estates have been identified as heritage precincts in the *Darebin Heritage Study* and are recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay. The Department of Human Services (DHS) have advised that a number of these estates are in need of upgrades/redevelopment and want to reach agreement with Council about balancing their potential upgrades/redevelopment plans with the identified heritage. DHS have also advised that the Huttonham Estate (Stokes and Penola Streets, Preston) is the highest priority estate for redevelopment due to poor physical building conditions, vacant public housing properties and social issues.

This report provides some background information about the situation regarding Darebin's HCV Estates, suggests a strategic approach to this issue and summarises a detailed assessment of the identified heritage of the Huttonham Estate. It is recommended that DHS develop comprehensive balanced heritage and redevelopment strategies (or a single strategy) for all of the HCV estates in Darebin and that Incorporated Plans (to form part of the Darebin Planning Scheme) should be prepared to implement these strategies. An Incorporated Plan for the Huttonham HCV estate should be prepared which recognises that 57, 59, 64 and 66 Showers Street Preston and at 1 – 15 and 2 – 8 Stokes Street Preston should be retained.

CONSULTATION:

Department of Human Services
Department of Planning and Community Development
Heritage Victoria
Context Pty Ltd
Co-ordinator Strategic Planning

RECOMMENDATION**THAT** Council:

- (1) Recommend to the Department of Human Services (DHS) that 57, 59, 64 and 66 Showers Street Preston and 1 – 15 and 2 – 8 Stokes Street Preston, which have the highest heritage value of properties in the

Huttonham Housing Commission of Victoria (HCV) Estate, should be retained in the proposed heritage overlay and that an Incorporated Plan be prepared as part of the Heritage Overlay to protect these properties and allow for the redevelopment of the rest of the Huttonham HCV Estate.

- (2) Receive a further report when DHS have prepared acceptable strategies for the other HCV Estates in Darebin.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council does not support the application of the Heritage Overlay to any of the former Housing Commission of Victoria Estates and that officers advise the Department of Human Services accordingly

CARRIED

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

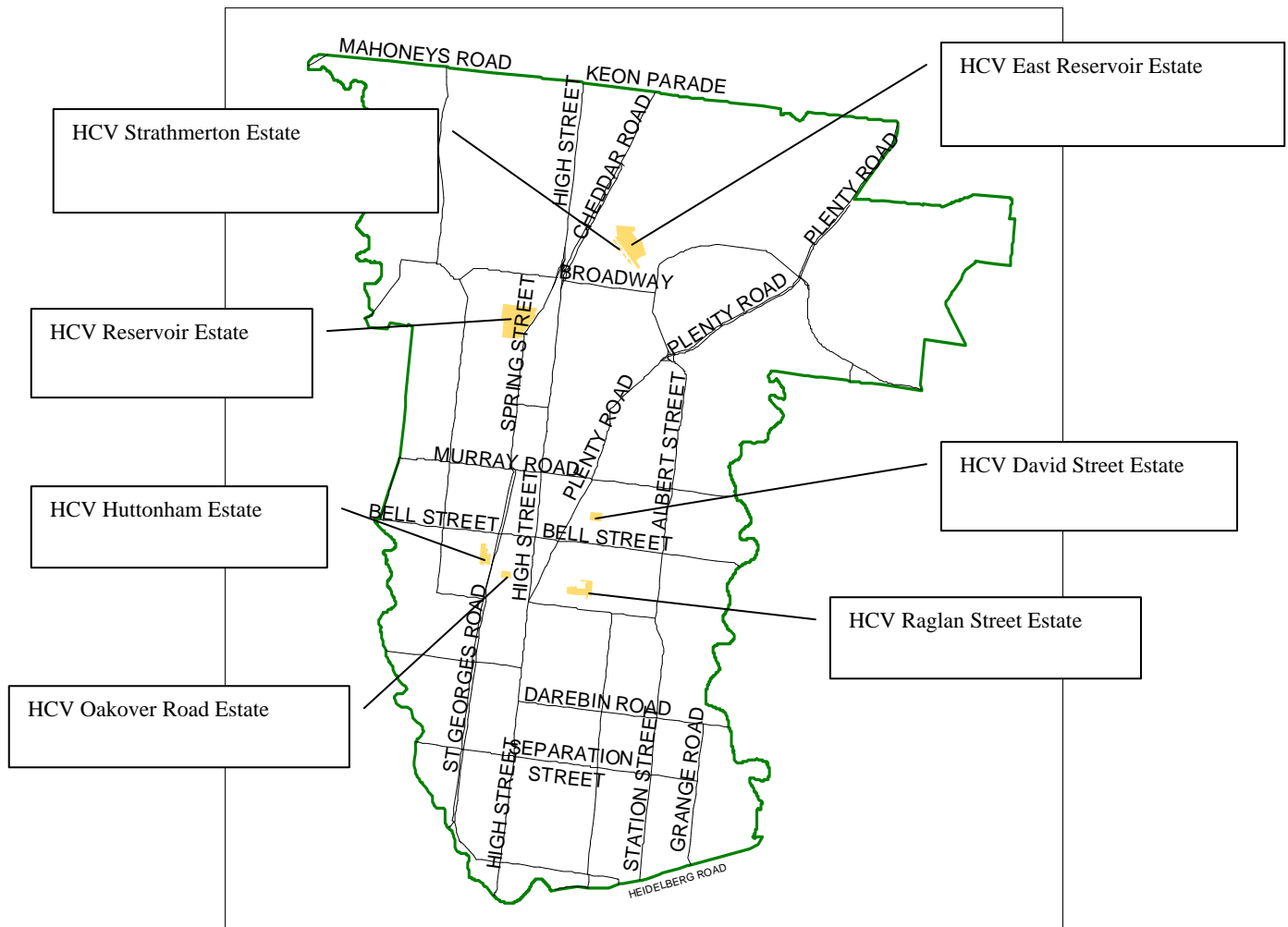
Council at its meeting on 3 November 2010 most recently considered a report on this matter and resolved to refer the matter to a Council Briefing Session and subsequent Council meeting.

The matter is now brought back to Council following discussion at the Council Briefing Session on 8 November 2010.

As reported to Council on 19 July 2010, a number of HCV housing estates have been identified as heritage precincts in the *Darebin Heritage Study* and are recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay. The HCV estates have been excluded from current planning scheme Amendments C107 and C108 (to apply the heritage overlay on an interim and permanent basis) to enable further discussions with the DHS.

In recent discussions with Council officers, DHS have advised that the HCV estates in most need of upgrade are in Preston and that the Huttonham Estate (Stokes and Penola Streets, Preston) is the highest priority estate for redevelopment due to poor physical building conditions, vacant public housing properties and social issues.

The map below shows the location of the seven HCV estates which have been identified as having heritage significance and recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay in the *Darebin Heritage Study*):



ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

HCV Estates and Heritage

DHS have expressed concern that the application of the Heritage Overlay to the HCV estates will impede/restrict plans for their redevelopment and upgrade. In some cases DHS suggest that the recommended Heritage Overlay be removed or refined. At this stage, DHS want to reach agreement with Council about balancing their potential upgrades/redevelopment plans with the identified heritage.

The Heritage Overlay for HCV Estates

One option for Council would be to proceed with the recommendation of the *Darebin Heritage Study* to apply the Heritage Overlay to all of the HCV estates. In this case, when the Heritage Overlay comes into operation, planning permits would be required for certain buildings and works on land within the estates. Each proposal, be it minor or major, would be required to consider and assess the heritage impacts on a case-by-case basis in the absence of a strategy.

Strategic Approach for the Redevelopment of the HCV Estates using Incorporated Plans

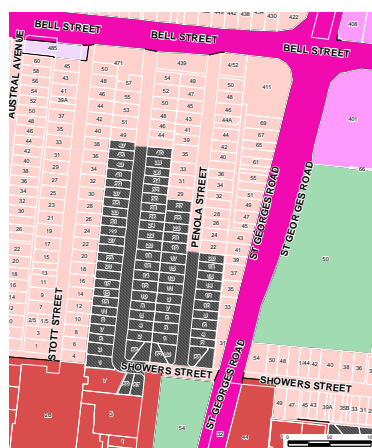
A more strategic approach for redevelopment plans is preferable. It is considered that a comprehensive heritage management and redevelopment strategy for all of the HCV estates (not just those in Preston) could be produced which could then be implemented through additional planning controls.

Advice from Heritage Victoria and Context Heritage consultants indicates that an appropriate planning tool for HCV heritage estates are Incorporated Plans (under Clause 81.01 of the Darebin Planning Scheme). Incorporated Plans have been developed and implemented for HCV estates in other Melbourne municipalities and an Incorporated Plan for the heritage estates in Preston Central was approved by the Planning Minister this year and is now part of Darebin Planning Scheme (the 'Preston Residential Heritage Precincts Permit Exemptions' Incorporated Plan). Incorporated plans can be designed to suit particular redevelopment strategies and attributes in a given heritage precinct/estate. They also can specify certain non-contributory properties, buildings and elements within precincts that are exempt from requiring a planning permit. Incorporated Plans are linked to the Heritage Overlay Control through the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in Clause 43.01 of the Darebin Planning Scheme.

DHS has its own agenda in terms of the opportunities, issues and asset management of the HCV estates. In light of this, it is considered appropriate that DHS prepare Incorporated Plans for each of the seven HCV estates in Darebin (in Preston and Reservoir) which reflect and implement their own strategy/ies for the estates. Upon submitting these Incorporated Plans and reaching agreement with Council, Darebin can then proceed to implement heritage controls for the HCV estates via a planning scheme amendment. It is considered that this approach would be an effective and efficient way to balance the future redevelopment of the HCV estates with heritage and would give clear guidance for planners, developers and the community alike.

HCV Huttonham Estate

Council's current position (as adopted at the 21 December 2009 Council Meeting) is that the Heritage Overlay should apply to the Huttonham HCV Estate as identified in the *Darebin Heritage Study*. The map below shows the proposed area for the Heritage Overlay:



DHS have advised Council Officers that redevelopment of the Huttonham HCV estate in Preston is urgent. Four potential redevelopment options have been presented for the Huttonham estate and DHS have requested that Council indicate which of the four redevelopment options are preferred so that works can begin as soon as possible.

All four options for the Huttonham Estate involve a variation to the extent of the heritage overlay recommended by the *Darebin Heritage Study* as follows:

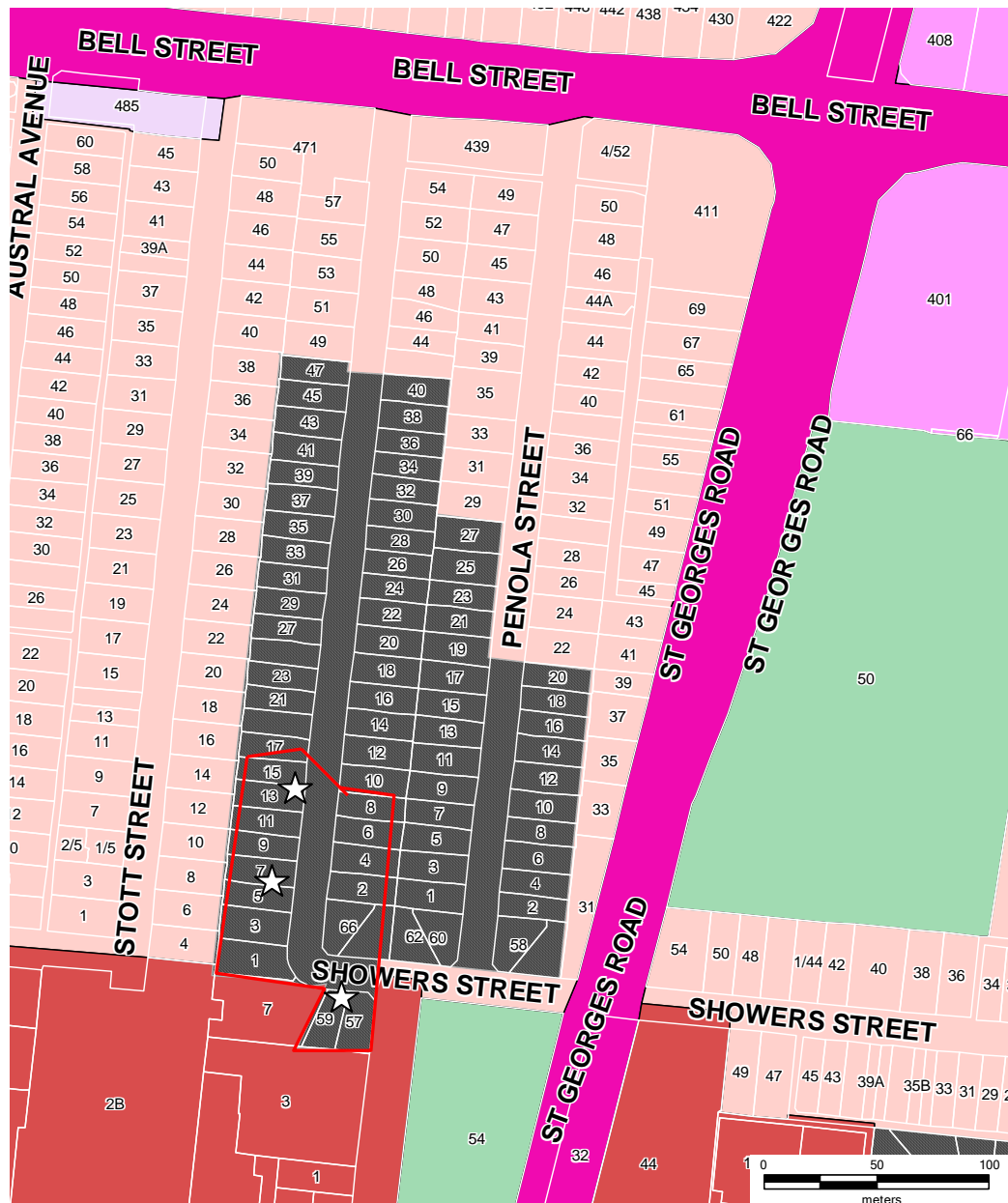
- Option 1 – No heritage overlay
- Option 2 – Heritage Overlay limited to one side of Stokes Street
- Option 3 – Heritage Overlay limited to both sides of Stokes Street and one side of Showers Street
- Option 4 – Heritage Overlay limited to parts of Penola Street and to both sides of Stokes and Showers Streets

DHS have conducted further heritage assessments of the estate and have compared the housing types present within the estate to those present in other HCV estates in Melbourne. This comparative analysis reveals that the Huttonham Estate includes the unusual pairing of double and single storey duplex houses. These houses are the earliest and rarest building type of those designed by the HCV Architect's Panel and are not present in other HCV estates across Melbourne.

Council's heritage adviser, Context Heritage consultants (who conducted the original heritage assessments) and Council officers have more closely assessed the heritage significance of the Huttonham Estate and have further identified its most important heritage elements. It is considered that the following elements are most significant to the estate:

- The layout of the Estate including the curved entrance to Stokes Street
- The conservation of the rarest housing types (being the unusual pairing of double and single storey duplexes which, according to DHS information, are not included in any other HCV Estate)
- The conservation of the most intact, original housing types.

The rarest housing types are located at nos. 5, 7, 13 and 15 Stokes Street and at 57 and 59 Showers Street. The southern end of Stokes Street also includes some of the earliest housing types of the Estate and the dwellings are in a better physical condition than in other parts of the Estate. In summary the building types with the highest heritage conservation value in the Huttonham Estate are at 57, 59, 64 and 66 Showers Street and at 1 – 15 and 2 – 8 Stokes Street (see map below) and all of these buildings are structurally intact. It is recommended that these buildings be conserved. This assessment has most in common with Option 3 presented by DHS.



Consequently, it is recommended that DHS prepare an Incorporated Plan which integrates the above assessment. It is important to emphasise that the recommendation of the *Darebin Heritage Study* to apply the Heritage Overlay to the whole Estate should not change. This is justified by the assessment that has been made in accordance with state guidelines for identifying heritage places and has been adopted by Council (at the Council meeting on 21 December 2009).

An Incorporated Plan could form a tool to complement to the Heritage Overlay. The Incorporated Plan will provide clear guidelines, and permit exemptions, for the Huttonham Estate and can specify certain buildings and works which are to be exempt from requiring planning permission. It is proposed that 57, 59, 64 and 66 Showers Street Preston and at 1 – 15 and 2 – 8 Stokes Street Preston be conserved and not be exempt from requiring planning permission.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

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

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The *Darebin Heritage Study* is based on principles of social inclusion and diversity. It is based on a broad definition of heritage and assesses and promotes cultural heritage for all different people. The study includes pre-contact and post-contact Aboriginal heritage and migrant heritage. Also, tangible cultural heritage is an important part of expression of cultural identity and can assist to provide a sense of place and wellbeing to a community or communities.

HCV housing estates are traditionally home to the more disadvantaged members of our society. The need to upgrade and redevelop these estates and to provide more public housing in Victoria is recognised. This report attempts to balance these needs with the identified heritage of the HCV estates.

Other

There are no other relevant policy implications of note.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The *Darebin Heritage Study* and work related to the HCV estates are within budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Council will be further notified when DHS have prepared acceptable strategies for other HCV estates in Darebin.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Minutes, 19 July 2010, Item 8.4: *Update on Darebin Heritage Study and on Amendments C107 and C108 to the Darebin Planning Scheme to introduce the Heritage Overlay.*
- Council Minutes, 21 December 2009, Item 8.10: *Darebin Heritage Study*
- *“City of Darebin Heritage Study Volume 3 – key findings and recommendations Draft Stage 2 Report* Context Pty Ltd, August 2008
- *City of Darebin Heritage Study Stage 2 Citations – Context Pty Ltd, August 2008*
- *Draft Preston Estates Heritage & Redevelopment Strategy Discussion Paper – Department of Human Services, July 2010*

8.5 UPDATE FOR THE RESERVOIR STRUCTURE PLAN PROJECT**MINUTE NO. 416****AUTHOR: Strategic Planner – Kylie Long****REVIEWED BY: Director City Works and Development – Michael Ballock****SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update about the progress of the 'small wins' projects which were identified by the community and traders as essential to activating and beautifying the Reservoir Major Activity Centre (Reservoir MAC) during the structure planning process.

In particular, the report discusses the priority projects and outlines important next steps which need to be undertaken by Council and the community to continue the important 'on the ground' transformations occurring in Reservoir MAC. Further, the report recommends responsibilities for the ongoing implementation of the 'small wins' initiatives.

CONSULTATION:**Completed Consultation Activities:**

March 2009 – April 2010:

During the consultation activities as part of the background and investigative work of the project, the community identified a number of activation, maintenance and beautification projects to happen 'now' in Reservoir MAC.

May 2010 – June 2010:

- Receipt of 'wish list' from Reservoir Village Traders Association
- Community Visioning Workshop – 29 May 2010
- Trader Visioning Workshop – 7 June 2010
- Council and Service Provider Visioning Workshop – 7 June 2010
- Volunteers meeting about Main Street Blitz event – 1 September 2010

Future Consultation Activities:

- Community Bulletin to be distributed early December
- Feedback about the 'small wins' process and activities as part of the Public Exhibition Period for the Structure Planning Visions (November 2010 – March 2011)

Consultations within Council Units:

The following Units have been consulted with during the testing of the 'small wins' projects and the preparation of this paper:

- Open Space Planning

- Major Projects and Activity Centres
- Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Community Access, Health and Safety
- Darebin Parks
- Infrastructure
- Economic Development

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- (1) Adopt the *Reservoir Major Activity Centre, Small Wins Action Plan, August 2010*, attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Note the projects achieved as part of the transformative place making process.
- (3) Note the projects still under investigation and associated responsibilities.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the item be deferred for further consideration.

CARRIED

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The preparation of structure plans by local Councils for their activity centres is a State Government requirement under Melbourne 2030. Council commenced the preparation of a Structure Plan for Reservoir Major Activity Centre (Reservoir MAC) in February 2009. The Structure Plan will establish a framework for future investment in the centre including streetscape improvements, major infrastructure upgrades and community development projects.

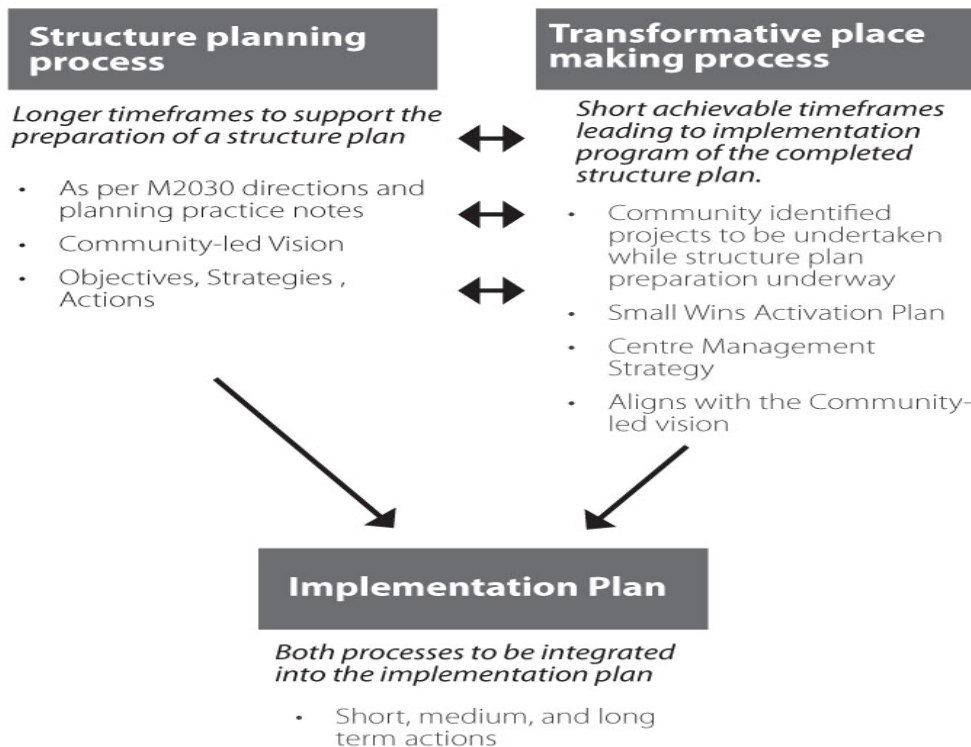
A key objective of the structure plan project has been to involve the community, to ensure that the vision for Reservoir MAC expresses the values and aspirations of the people who live, work and shop in the centre. A Community Reference Group (CRG) was formed to work closely with the project team to achieve this end. The La Trobe Ward Councillors sit as co-chairs and the group has met seven times since September 2009 at important milestones.

In addition to working with the CRG, the project team has spent significant time listening to and learning from the community as part of the issues identification and place essence stages of the project. During these activities, the project team heard that Reservoir was experiencing immediate maintenance and activation issues which required urgent Council

attention. The CRG felt they could not work in good faith with Council on the ‘big ticket’ items of the Structure Plan, until Council addressed some of the immediate needs of the centre.

In response to community concern and to sustain co-operation between Council, the CRG and the community, the project team developed a parallel ‘transformative’ process to run concurrently to and integrate with the structure planning process as shown in the diagram below:

Regeneration of Reservoir



To date, the transformative place making process has achieved the preparation of the *Reservoir Major Activity Centre, Small Wins Action Plan, August 2010* and an all-of-organisation approach to the implementation of a number of community identified ‘small wins’ projects.

The *Reservoir Major Activity Centre, Small Wins Action Plan, August 2010* is attached as **Appendix A**.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Small Wins Action Plan

The Small Wins Action Plan is an important reference document for Council as it is an inventory of projects for Reservoir MAC that is informed by the community. The plan can continue to be used by Council for advocacy purposes, applying for funding, forming community partnerships, targeting key projects which the community want to see happen, and the like.

The Small Wins Action Plan is based on the outcomes of an extensive community engagement process which included the identification of projects to be realised on the

ground during the background investigative work to improve the appearance and vitality of Reservoir MAC and enable community participation.

The inventory documents a considerable number of 'small wins' projects which relate to a number of key themes. A summary of the priority projects for the community is below:

Theme	Priority Projects
Enhancing Reservoir's unique identity	Community noticeboard / Unified branding for the centre / Community markets
A well connected town centre	A lighting strategy to connect Broadway and Reservoir Village / Wayfinding / Activation of laneways
Place to be in and linger	Graffiti management / Clean public amenities / Improvements to pedestrian crossings
Beautiful streets for people	Community main street blitz / Clean the bins / Pressure clean the footpaths or resurface / Remove litter / Find opportunities for plantings / Commission local art / Hold a street party
An accessible transport hub	Shuttle bus for events such as bingo / Bus shelter on Edwardes Street / Express trains for Reservoir / Plantings at Station
Prosperous local businesses	Collective traders association plus co-ordinated business and marketing plan / skills and training for local businesses / Shop front improvement scheme
Green Open Spaces	Planter boxes in the main streets / parks to have themes – chess sets / story telling
Resilient and sustainable	Clean gutters and drains / tree planting day / Greening Reservoir stories in the paper / Provide cigarette receptacles / Install recycling bins / Create community gardens / Plant food trees and indigenous plantings in public spaces

Reviewing the 'small wins' projects

What is a 'small win' project?

For the purposes of the transformative place making process, a 'small win' project is required to meet the following criteria:

- Addresses the immediate on the ground needs,
- Require a minimal amount of planning and implementation and relatively inexpensive,
- Will not jeopardise any longer term projects (for example, a Streetscape Masterplan).

Council officers have been reviewing the inventory of 'small wins' projects and have found that a number of projects do not fit the criteria. This is in part due to the community not having access to information about budget implications and the complex approval processes required to implement their short term 'wish lists'.

As such, while the documented projects are important, many cannot be achieved prior to the completion of the Structure Plan. Instead, these actions will be further assessed as part of the Structure Plan preparation and will be designated appropriate timelines and budgets as part of the project Implementation Plan.

Implementation in the first year

Council has recently carried out maintenance and improvements in Reservoir MAC according to the list of priority 'small wins' projects. To complete this work, Council has had to adopt a place-based approach so as to integrate the multi-functioning issues relating to activity centre planning and maintenance in Darebin.

To date the achieved 'small wins' projects have amounted to more than \$50,000 and include:

- New bin installation in Edwardes Street to replace the existing ones,
- Bins have been cleaned in Broadway,
- A new seat and bus shelter has been installed on the south side of Edwardes Street,
- Landscaping works in the Bernard Street car park involving a concrete path from Bedford Street into the car park; the planting of new semi advanced trees and strategic planting of understory plants; removal of poor trees/shrubs; rubbish clean up and; mulching of all garden beds,
- Landscaping upgrades in the car parks at the rear of Broadway and Edwardes Street shopping centres,
- Engagement of a Centre Coordinator by Council to work with Broadway traders to explore centre management issues and to help people engage in the Structure Plan process.

The completed projects represent an all-of-Council approach to the early implementation of the Structure Plan.

Main Street Blitz

A number of the above actions were originally planned as part of a cleaning and planting 'blitz' day in Reservoir MAC which was to involve Councillors, traders and community. The main street blitz idea was initiated by the community at a community visioning workshop for the project.

Given the achievement of the above actions, the number of tasks which could be reasonably and safely undertaken by volunteers was reduced to picking up litter which was not substantial enough to pursue the main street blitz idea.

Footpath cleaning

Footpath cleaning is a community priority in Reservoir MAC. Darebin Council does not own equipment to pressure clean footpaths and does not provide footpath cleaning as part of its routine cleaning services to any areas of Darebin.

Council would have to pay an external contractor for this work to be done. The cost of providing a one off clean of the footpaths in Edwardes Street/Spring Street and High Street/Broadway would be approximately \$23,000. Darebin's City Works does not have excess funds to cover this cost. This could be considered at the preparation of the next budget.

Projects under investigation

A number of projects are still under investigation as part of the transformative place making process and will be implemented at an appropriate future date by the responsible Council unit as below:

Project	Progress	Responsible Council Unit
Lane way street art project	Preliminary discussions with Arts, Culture and Heritage	Arts, Culture and Heritage
An exhibition of Reservoir artists work in the centre (at Reservoir Civic Centre)	Preliminary discussions with Arts, Culture and Heritage	Arts, Culture and Heritage
Farmers Market at Edwardes Lake Park	Once the Food Security Policy is adopted, Council officers will work on an action plan to help implement the policy. One of the actions will be to investigate the feasibility of a framers market at Edwardes Lake Park.	Strategic Planning / Community Access, Health and Safety
Planting on the southern corner of Broadway and High Street	This work is scheduled to be completed by mid November	Open Space Planning
Planting on the northern corner of Edwardes and Spring Street	This work is scheduled to be completed by mid November	Open Space Planning
Visual Merchandising training for traders	Visual merchandising training will be provided in November for all traders with the opportunity to win one –on-one training for 8 shop owners	Economic Development and Employment
Graffiti removal		Economic Development and Employment
Planting at Reservoir Station	A concept plan has been prepared and a submission made to Metro Trains Melbourne for approval to plant an area outside the inbound station. Metro Trains Melbourne will require Council is to enter into a Beautification Agreement Licence. Council must commit to maintaining the planting area as part of this agreement.	Strategic Planning / Open Space / Darebin Parks

Community participation

It is important that the work being undertaken in Reservoir MAC continues to be reported back to the community. While the Strategic Planning Unit will provide information and advice during the Structure Plan preparation, Council needs to develop a longer term strategy for communicating with Reservoir residents, traders and visitors.

This 'small wins' work represents a first step towards a collaborative planning process in Reservoir MAC. The structure plan needs to recommend strategies to support the continued close working relationship between Council, local residents, traders and visitors to cultivate community ownership of the implementation of the Structure Plan and to support emerging community leaders.

Transformative place making approach

The 'small wins' approach, as a critical element of the transformative place making process, has enabled Council to translate strategy into action in the short term and build momentum for an early implementation of the Reservoir Structure Plan.

The Community Reference Group is acknowledged for their role in catalysing the development of the transformative place making process. At its first meeting, the group observed that a conventional structure plan study approach would not work given the need to "get things happening on the ground now" in Reservoir MAC. This feedback resulted in the re-design of the study process to focus on activating Reservoir now as part of the longer term planning exercise.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

The 'small wins' projects are consistent with Council's environmental strategies.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

It is considered that the transformative place making approach has enabled true community collaboration.

The Small Wins Action Plan documents community aspirations and ideas for improvements to Reservoir MAC.

Council is planning for ongoing community participation and collaboration as an important strategy to come out of the Structure Plan and Implementation Plan.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The Reservoir Structure Plan Project is within budget.

CONCLUSION

The 'small wins' approach, as a critical element of the transformative place making process, has been important because it has engendered a good working relationship with local residents and traders who are committed to championing change in Reservoir. It will also continue to help and enrich the preparation of the Structure Plan and Council's ongoing commitment to achieving 'small wins' in the centre.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Implementation of the projects still under investigation at an appropriate future date by the responsible Council Unit as nominated in this report.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Plan 2009 – 2013
- Draft Structure Planning for Activity Centres Practice Note (DPCD, 2008)
- Structure Planning for Activity Centres (DSE, December, 2004)
- Melbourne 2030 (State Government of Victoria, 2002)
- Council Minutes, 27 February 2009, Northland Structure Plan and Reservoir Structure Plan – Commencement of Projects
- Council Minutes, 6 April 2010, Provision of Consultancy Services (CT6021)
- Council Minutes, 20 September, Reservoir Structure Plan – Discussion about Background Investigative Work
- Reservoir Major Activity Centre; Background and Issues Report, September 2010
- Reservoir Major Activity Centre: Economic Analysis and Market Feasibility Study, Charter Keck Cramer, August 2010
- Baseline Report, Reservoir Strategic Transport Plan, Booz and Co. June 2010
- Background Report, Community Infrastructure and Social Need Assessment, ASR Research, September 2010
- Reservoir Major Activity Centre; Place Essence Paper, September 2010
- Reservoir Major Activity Centre; Small Wins Action Plan, August 2010

**8.6 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2009-2013
PROGRESS REPORT 2010****MINUTE NO. 417****AUTHOR: Health Planner - Melissah Morrison****REVIEWED BY: Group Manager People and Performance - Sharon
Hutchison****SUMMARY:**

The City of Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 was adopted by Council in November 2009. This report provides a summary of progress made in the first year of the Plan.

CONSULTATION:

- Community Access, Health and Safety
- Social Inclusion and Diversity
- Aged and Disability
- Family and Children Services
- Youth Services
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Leisure
- Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Transportation
- East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal
- Darebin Community Health
- Darebin Health Committee

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note the progress and achievements of the first year of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

- (1) Note the progress and achievements of the first year of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013.
- (2) Officers organise a community forum to provide a progress report on the outcomes of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan for 2010.

CARRIED

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The City of Darebin plays a leading role in the health and wellbeing of the population across the municipality. It is a requirement under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* that all Councils provide a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years. These plans are designed to identify existing and emerging public health priority areas within municipal areas and outline a range of preventative and responsive strategies to enable people to achieve their maximum wellbeing.

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

There are three key priority areas which underpin the Plan which encompass a range of strategic response areas including:

- **Priority One: Promoting Mental Health and Social Wellbeing** – encompassing strategies addressing social inclusion, prevention of violence in families and against women and children, alcohol and drug use and mental health issues.
- **Priority Two: Improving Physical Health** – encompassing strategies addressing physical activity, access to healthy food and nutrition and health promotion.
- **Priority Three: Creating a Safe, Supportive and Sustainable Environment** – encompassing strategies addressing access to health and community services, community safety, housing, transport, climate change and other environmental issues.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The following section outlines a snapshot of activities which have been undertaken in the past year from November 2009 - November 2010 to address the strategic areas outlined in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013.

Priority One: Promoting Mental Health and Social Wellbeing

Key projects completed under this priority area between November 2009 and November 2010 include:

Social Isolation

- A Social Inclusion Agenda has been developed for the City of Darebin.
- There have been 20 Street Parties held by the community since November 2009, eight of which were held in Reservoir.
- Council held a series of 'International Day of People with a Disability' events throughout the first week of December 2009 with several hundred people in attendance.
- A Darebin Community Events October 2010 flyer was put together to co-promote a number of Council events including Darebin Seniors Festival, Community Safety Month, Mental Health Week and 'Walktober'. These events are about local people of all ages getting together, trying new activities and having a good time for free.
- Festival of Light and Friendship was held on 24 October 2010, a new event for the City of Darebin targeted at welcoming international students and promoting social inclusion with the wider community. Approximately 10,000 people attended through the day.
- Council has strengthened its partnership with the Mental Illness Fellowship of Victoria to run the Open Mind Fiesta, an annual street festival aimed at promoting awareness of mental illness and social inclusion of people with a mental illness. Council provides a financial contribution and a Council stall was held at this year's event.
- Council support and participation in the annual End of Year BBQ as part of the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal program. Event held in December 2009 at TW Blake Reserve with hundreds of local residents from Reservoir attending.

Mental Health Promotion

- A pocket-sized Mental Health Support Services Guide has been developed in partnership with local mental health service providers to promote and support access to the local mental health service system. 5,000 copies have been printed and will be made available across the community via community health services, Police station, and Council services. In addition, 2,000 guides will be sent to each household in the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal area. The guide was launched by the Mayor at the Open Mind Fiesta event on 17 October 2010.
- Darebin Council representation on the Northern Area Mental Health Service (NAMHS) Community Mental Health Steering Group and the Northern Area Dual Diagnosis Network (NADDN).

Prevention of Violence against Women

- Translated the Northern Region Family Violence Help Cards into the top 12 languages other than English across the northern region, including an Aboriginal version (see case study below).

- Implemented the White Ribbon Strategic Plan. Nick Mazarella, Manager Major Projects, Engineering and Transportation voted Australian Ambassador of the Year 2010.
- Darebin Domestic Violence Network continues to meet monthly with an increase in membership and attendance and increased involvement in white ribbon activities.
- The annual Women's Self Care Day was run in October 2010 with around 40 survivors of family violence attending for a day of relaxation and to take time out to care about themselves.

Case Study: Northern Region Family Violence Help Card Translation Project

These pocket-sized cards set out the Family Violence service system on a local government area (LGA) basis and include state-wide services and information for women considering leaving a violent partner. The Men's Help Card sets out the service system on a LGA basis where men can get help and what they can do if they perpetrate violent behaviour.

Originally launched in 2007, the English cards have now been translated into Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Dinka, Hindi, Macedonian, Somali, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Turkish, and Vietnamese. In addition an Aboriginal specific card was developed.

Working groups were established to develop the content for translation and post translation. The content was assessed by bi-lingual workers from the family violence sector for accuracy and to ensure the translation delivered the desired message about family violence.

The cards were officially launched by Minister Morand in June 2010 and have been distributed widely across the North, including Family Violence Services, Police Stations, Maternal and Child Health Centres, Community Health Centres, Libraries and Customer Service Centres.

The response to the cards has been extremely positive and it is envisioned that translated cards could be used as a template for other regions, with the Eastern and the Western Region having already used the English card as a template for their own family violence help cards.

"I believe the cards are very helpful to the women in our information sessions",
Christie, Chinese Welfare Association

"I'm sure the cards will make a difference to many women and men"
Mardi, Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture

Gambling, Alcohol and Drug Use

- Conducted a 12-month Alcohol Restricted Zones pilot project in targeted areas of Preston and Reservoir to address public drinking issues. A formal review process has been undertaken on the outcomes of this pilot project.
- A research paper has been completed investigating the alcohol issues in Darebin and broader policy context to provide the background for future strategic planning in 2011 around alcohol use and related harms in the City of Darebin.
- The City of Darebin Electronic Gambling Policy and Strategic Action Plan was adopted by Council in August 2010. This policy supported a recent application for pokies at the Stolberg Hotel to be overturned by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal

(VCAT) based on the potential social and economic impact of the gaming machines in the local area.

Priority Two: Improving Physical Health

Key projects completed under this priority area between November 2009 and November 2010 include:

Physical Activity

- Encouraged children to be active and independently mobile in their local neighbourhood through the StreetsAhead project (see case study below).
- Development of a new Leisure Strategy with a focus on community wellbeing a key priority.
- PlaySpace Strategy developed and an All Abilities Playground in Bundoora Park launched on 16 October 2010.

Case Study: Streets Ahead

"If it wasn't for the Streets Ahead project, many of the children at this school might never have had the opportunity to learn how to ride a bike throughout their childhood" Primary School Teacher, Reservoir

During the last twelve months, Streets Ahead has helped four local schools to develop School Travel Plans. Key initiatives of these Plans include:

1. The installation of bike sheds
2. Bike Ed Training for staff and students
3. The purchase of a set of class bikes to support Bike Ed and Bike maintenance skills
4. Walking and cycling events including Walk Safely to School Day, Ride2School and Walktober

Streets Ahead has also been involved in key events. PARKing Day, the Darebin Kite Festival and the Great All Nations Walk provided Council with the opportunity to further raise awareness about the importance of children walking and cycling to school to increase their physical activity and promote healthy development.

Access to Food and Nutrition

- Establishment of the Darebin Emergency Relief Network (DERN) with representation from local emergency relief providers, Council financial counselling services, neighbourhood houses, Darebin Information, Volunteer and Resource Service (DIVRS), Anglicare, Centrelink, Darebin Community Legal Centre, Women's Information Support and Housing in the North (WISHIN) and North East Housing. The aim of DERN is to co-ordinate a regional approach to meeting the needs of Darebin residents experiencing financial or material disadvantage. This group is currently investigating the development of a Food Bank in the City of Darebin to enhance access to healthy food for disadvantaged population groups.
- Development of a City of Darebin Emergency Relief Guide to assist agencies and other community support organisations with referral pathways for clients. An information hand-out has also been developed to assist residents in need to access the appropriate supports.

- Implementation of the Food security project funded by the Department of Health. A strategic response to food security is currently being developed.
- Participating in the review of the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) to embed food security. Consideration of food security has been highlighted in background reports for Reservoir Structure Plan.
- A series of food growing workshops have been provided throughout the Sustainable Homes Program with over 100 registrations for the most recent workshop.
- The Good Food Alliance held three meetings throughout 2010. The Alliance gets community agencies and groups together to network and learn about access to food and healthy eating. Membership includes community health centres, local neighbourhood houses, Preston/Reservoir Adult Community Education (PRACE), Transition Darebin, Neighbourhood Renewal, DIVRS, Primary Care Partnership and Department of Health.

Case Study: Healthy Eating Workshop at Sprout Community Garden

The Good Food Alliance hosted a Healthy Eating Workshop in partnership with Sprout Community Garden in November 2009. There were six families from the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal area who were from diverse cultural and socio-economic backgrounds with children aged between three and five years.

Parents spent time with dieticians from the Community Health Centre to learn about cheap and healthy snacks for kindergarten, encouraging toddlers to eat veggies and strategies to manage fussy eating.

At the same time, the children spent time in the garden learning about different types of vegetables and picking produce to be used for lunch. They also spent time potting their own tomato plant to take home.

Afterwards, the parents and children came together and made lunch from the produce the children had picked from the garden and ate together as a group.

Health Promotion

- A series of prostate cancer awareness activities were held during International Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September 2010 including:
 - Council staff BBQ held at the Depot with over 70 men attending to hear from guest speaker Robert Flower, ex-Melbourne Football Club player about his experience as a survivor of prostate cancer.
 - Floodlit the Preston Civic Centre 'blue' for a week with key messages in the media to enhance community awareness of the cause.
 - A community BBQ was hosted by Council and the Preston Bullants at the Northern Football League finals game with the prostate cancer ribbon painted on the field and promoted in the footy fixture.
- Prepared a submission to the 'Parliamentary inquiry into the potential for schools to become a focus for promoting healthy community living'.
- The Darebin Women's Advisory Committee has been established to provide a forum to communicate and engage with women in the community and promote and support their unique health and wellbeing needs.

Priority Three: Create a Safe, Supportive and Sustainable Environment

Key projects completed under this priority area between November 2009 and November 2010 include:

Access to Services

- A background paper was prepared to assist advocacy with State Government around increasing levels of alcohol and other drug support services in Darebin.
- Continued participation in planning for future health services delivery through participation in Planning for a Healthier North.

Community Safety

- A number of Community Safety Month activities were held including the Great All Nations Park Walk in Northcote with around 100 local residents and the Great Edwards Lake Walk with 130 local residents participating. The events also involved music and a community BBQ to promote social inclusion and feelings of safety in their neighbourhood.
- In response to community safety concerns in Preston East, a public meeting was held in partnership with Youth Services, Victoria Police, Office of Housing and local residents to identify concerns and possible responses. In response, Youth Services began providing their mobile outreach program in the area and a Meet the Street BBQ was held to promote community connectedness in the area.
- Implementation of the Graffiti Management Strategy with 149 forms of graffiti removal support provided to the community since November 2009 (41 paint vouchers, 70 kits, 38 vouchers for contractor removal). In addition, a database has been set up to start monitoring this data on a monthly basis in order to provide comparative data over time.
- Graffiti Removal Program received Corrections Victoria Community Work Partnership Awards in October 2010 for their long standing (10 year) and successful relationship with the Reservoir Community Corrections Graffiti Removal Program. Through this partnership, offenders participating in the program, removed 2446 square metres of graffiti from across the municipality between March and June 2010.
- The Darebin Local Safety Committee continued to meet bi-monthly with consistent representation from members.
- Educational presentation to Darebin Local Safety Committee members on the issue of hoarding and associated health and safety risks. Compulsive hoarding is a chronic and progressive mental health condition linked to the collection of large quantities of items or animals. Hoarding can be linked to approx 24 per cent of fatal house fires in Melbourne since 2000, and the average operational cost for the Melbourne Fire Brigade to attend a hoarding related fire is \$33,000.

Case Study: Operation Bounceback – Reducing Car Theft in Darebin

The Operation Bounceback project is a partnership with Victoria Police to provide education and awareness around motor vehicle theft. This project is funded annually through the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council.

In 2010, advertising was provided in local newspapers and in cinemas for six months with key messages, 3 education stalls were held in partnership with Metro Trains at local train stations in Darebin and 80 immobiliser vouchers were given out to the community for people with old cars to increase their security.

In comparison, between Jan 2008 and Dec 2009, there has been a 17% decrease in the number of car thefts in City of Darebin.

Transport and Mobility

- Development of a Safe Travel Strategy 2010-2015 as a new approach to road safety in the City of Darebin.
- Implementation of the Darebin Transport Strategy.

Housing

- Development of a Responding to Housing Stress: A Local Action Plan 2010-2013 which was launched in September 2010.
- Work to include affordable housing in the review of the Municipal Strategic Statement.

Climate Change

- Implementation of the Heat Wave Strategy. A community register is being established as a communication pathway to those most vulnerable to heat stress.
- The first Talking My Language program was delivered in partnership with the Darebin Greek Senior Citizens Group earlier this year and involved an energy efficiency brochure being translated into Greek.
- A Sustainable Food Community Leaders Forum was held in September 2010 with over 40 community leaders in attendance to discuss actions to promote sustainable food initiatives in Darebin.
- Implementation of the Community Climate Change Action Plan including promotion of the Energy and Water Taskforce program and over 1,000 pedestal fans to be provided to people experiencing disadvantage and those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Review of governance and evaluation structuresSteering Group

The Darebin Health Committee is Council's key advisory committee on health and wellbeing issues in Darebin and is the steering group overseeing the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013. This Committee has continued to meet bi-monthly and a key focus over 2010 has been to increase and diversify membership to ensure adequate representation of the health and wellbeing needs of the Darebin community. Three new organisations have

become members since November 2009 including Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre, Women's Health in the North and Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria.

Leadership

Established an Integrated Planning Team (IPT), a cross-departmental committee to oversee and manage internal accountability of Council to consider health and social impacts around Council's work. This committee held its inaugural meeting in August 2010.

There is ongoing work to embed health and wellbeing principles into Council plans as they come up for review. Health and wellbeing has been a strong focus in the development of the new Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy.

Evaluation

An Evaluation Framework is currently being developed to support the development of measures for the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan. Consultants from PDF Management have been engaged to assist with this project.

Development of Community Wellbeing Indicators

A set of Community Wellbeing Indicators has been identified as a key project of the Community Health and Wellbeing in order to measure and track wellbeing in the Darebin community. Indicators will be drawn from the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Darebin Social Inclusion Agenda and will assist Council to measure key determinants of community wellbeing such as social inclusion, access to food, housing, transport, community safety, education and learning, employment, civic participation, environmental sustainability etc.

The development of these indicators is in progress and is expected to be completed by mid-2011.

Key areas for action in 2011

- Development of a set of Community Wellbeing Indicators to monitor and track trends in community wellbeing will provide outcome measures for the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- Development of a Food Security Implementation Plan.
- A focus on addressing alcohol and other drug use within the municipality.
- Participation in the development of a Regional Population Health Framework with the Department of Health.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

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

promotes and encourages sustainable living and healthy behaviours such as active travel, eating fresh foods and using local parks for recreation and leisure pursuits.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

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

Other

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

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Actions and strategies identified in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan are met within existing operational budgets. Additional resources when required will be sourced from relevant organisations and funding bodies.

CONCLUSION

There have been a number of successful initiatives implemented over the first year of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013, with key projects targeting vulnerable population groups in order to reduce their health inequalities. Some of the key vulnerable groups who have been involved in targeted activity over the past year include: international students, people from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds, people from diverse cultural backgrounds, women and men, older adults, youth and people with a mental illness or disability.

There has also been a slight shift in capacity across Council, with an increasing number of Council departments, beyond the Community Access Health and Safety Unit, focusing on the specific health and wellbeing needs of vulnerable groups within the community.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Review the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan between November 2010 and November 2011.
- The Darebin Health Steering Committee to continue to meet bi-monthly or as required.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin, Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013

8.7 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN COUNCIL OPERATIONS ANNUAL REVIEW**MINUTE NO. 418****AUTHOR: Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett****REVIEWED BY: Acting Director City Design and Environment - Adrian Burns****SUMMARY:**

This report summarises the success and progress of the Climate Change Action Plan over the past year. This plan focuses on reducing Council's corporate greenhouse emissions, as distinct from supporting community emission reductions, which is undertaken through the Community Climate Change Action Plan and is the subject of a separate report (see next Report Item 8.8).

Key highlights include:

- Achievement of the 2010 greenhouse reduction target in 2008/2009 - a 20% reduction on 1995 greenhouse gas emission levels ahead of time and continuing to maintain greenhouse emissions well below the 2010 target in 2009/2010;
- A highly successful Energy Efficiency Program which has reduced emissions in most of Council's "Top 11" energy using facilities, achieving significant reductions at the Darebin Civic Centre (32%), Reservoir Depot (45%) and Reservoir Civic Centre (32%) and is saving \$430,000 a year in electricity and gas bills compared to 2006/2007 usage prior to the implementation of the program.

The report also proposes changes to Council's corporate greenhouse inventory to become consistent with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGERs) model.

CONSULTATION:

Director Corporate and Business Services
Director City Design and Environment
Manager City Works
Manager Major Projects, Engineering and Transportation
Facility Managers
Environment Officer, Projects and Data Management
Climate Change Action Officer

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

- (1) Note this report and continue to implement the Climate Change Action Plan to continue to progress towards Darebin's 2020 Carbon Neutral target for Council operations.
- (2) Commence data collection and reporting of Darebin's corporate greenhouse inventory in line with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting model as outlined in this report.
- (3) In 2015, following establishment of baseline data for various 'Scope 3' emissions, review and decide how these 'Scope 3' emissions are to be treated in relation to Darebin's corporate Carbon Neutral target for Council operations.

CARRIED

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on 4 June 2007, Council resolved to:

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

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

This report updates Council on the progress and achievements of the Climate Change Action Plan for Council operations following the third year of implementation.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan is overseen by the Greenhouse Steering Group which has high level representation from those Directorates and Departments across the organisation where most emissions are generated. The group meets on a two monthly basis and currently consists of: Director Corporate and Business

Services; Acting Director City Design and Environment; Manager City Works; Manager Major Projects, Engineering and Transportation; Manager Environment and Natural Resources; Environmental Strategy Coordinator; and the Climate Change Action Officer.

Overall Outcomes

Through the implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan, Council achieved the 2010 greenhouse reduction target in 2008/2009 - a 20% reduction on 1995 greenhouse gas emission levels ahead of time and in 2009/2010 has maintained greenhouse emissions at well below the 2010 target.

Darebin's climate change action, both in terms of demonstrating leadership in Council's own operations and in supporting the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions has been recognised in a range of prominent environmental awards:

- Winner of the National Environs Australia Award for *Achievement in Sustainability - Urban and Larger Councils* category (August 2009)
- Finalist in the Premier's Sustainability Award in the *Local Government* category (March 2010)
- Winner of both the *Local Government Energy Saving Champion Award* and the *Local Government Green Powered Champion Award* at the EcoBuy Awards (May 2010)
- Winner of the United Nations Association of Australia's *Meeting the Greenhouse Challenge Award* (June 2010)
- Winner of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Award for *Community Climate Change Action* - which also featured Darebin's leadership in reducing emissions in Council's own operations (June 2010)
- Finalist in the National Banksia Awards for *Leading in Sustainability Award - Setting the Standard for Large Organisations* (October 2010).

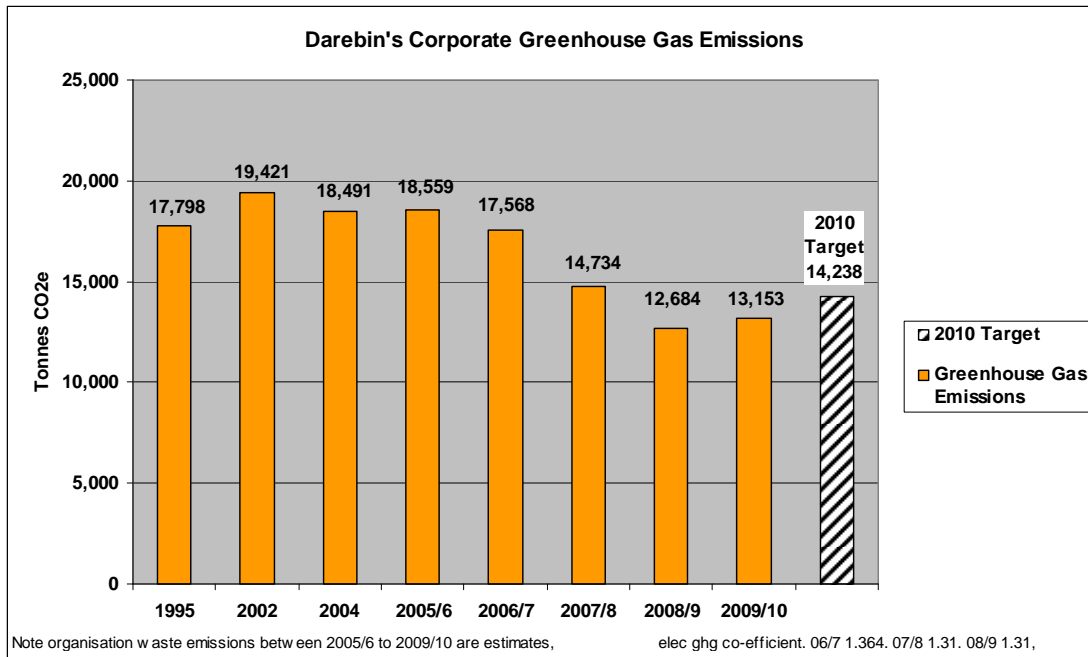
The achievements of the Community Climate Change Action Plan are presented in a separate report.

Council's Corporate Emissions

Graph 1 below shows the total emissions from Council operations in 2009/2010 as 13,153 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, maintaining emissions well below the 2010 target of 14,238 tonnes. The 2009/2010 result is an increase of 469 tonnes from 2008/2009 but most of this increase is due to an increase in Victoria's greenhouse coefficient for electricity¹ and improved data collection particularly in relation to street-lighting where greenhouse emissions have been dependent on information provided by distribution businesses which has not always been consistent or reliable.

Graph 1 Darebin's Corporate Greenhouse Gas emissions

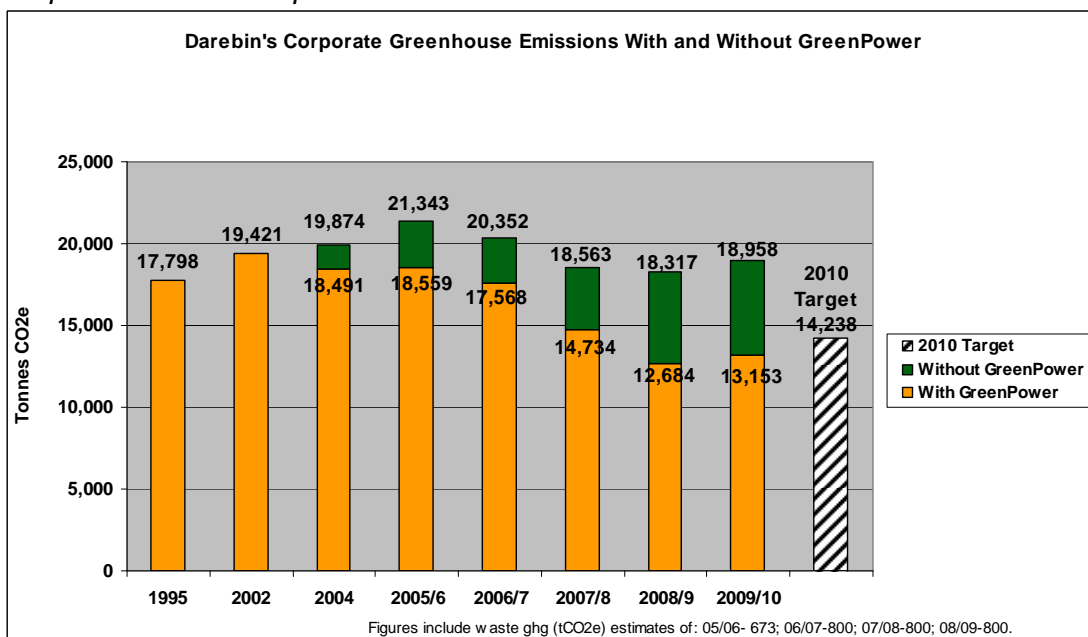
¹ The greenhouse intensity of electricity is based on annual coefficients published by the Australian Government for each state in Australia. In Victoria the co-efficient increased from 1.31 tonnes per MWh of electricity in 2008/2009 to 1.35 tonnes per MWh of electricity in 2009/2010. This means that using the same quantity of conventional electricity results in a 3% increase in emissions. This state-wide change is probably due to a reduced contribution from hydro-electricity due to ongoing drought conditions.



Emissions have been successfully maintained below the 2010 target primarily due to:

- The continuing success of the energy efficiency program in Council's "Top 11" energy using buildings which achieved a further reduction of 226 tonnes of greenhouse savings. This is the equivalent of removing around 54 average Australian cars from the road. More detail about the energy efficiency program is provided below.
- Council's ongoing purchase of 100% GreenPower for all Council owned and managed buildings. The importance of Darebin's GreenPower purchase is illustrated in Graph 2 below. The 2009/2010 purchase achieved emissions reductions of 5,805 tonnes a year, equivalent to removing more than 1,300 average Australian cars from the road. Without this significant investment, emissions from Council operations would be higher than the 1995 baseline year and much higher than the 2010 reduction target.

Graph 2 Darebin's Corporate Emissions With and Without GreenPower



Graph 3 shows emissions from each of the four key sectors based on energy use - that is without the GreenPower purchase included.

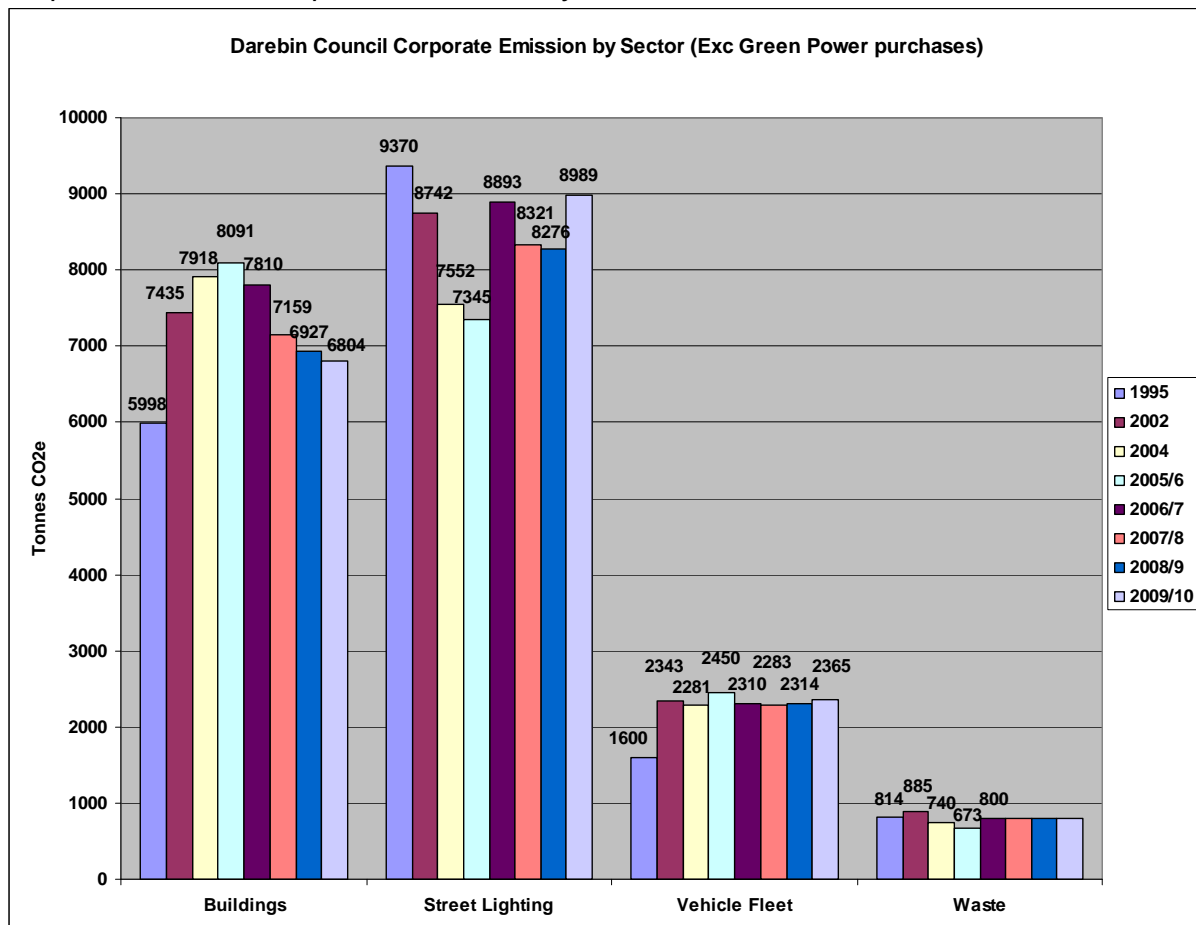
Energy use and emissions from Council's buildings and facilities continue to decrease. The "Top 11" buildings (presented in more detail below) achieved a further net reduction of 226 tonnes compared to the previous year which is a very good result. Overall emissions from buildings decreased by 123 tonnes however, so this reflects an increase of 103 tonnes from smaller facilities which are not directly targeted by the energy efficiency program. This is mainly due to new services or increased usage at relatively new sites, for example the former Courthouse Community Hub, the Northcote Police Station, the truck wash facility at the Reservoir Depot and some new bike path lighting.

The graph shows an increase in greenhouse emissions from street-lighting, this is due to the change in Victoria's greenhouse coefficient for electricity (an increase of 3%) and improved data collection based on hours of operation rather than billing data and inclusion of emissions from security lighting.

Council's vehicle fleet has remained relatively stable with 2,365 tonnes of emissions in 2009/2010 compared to 2,314 tonnes the previous year - an increase of 51 tonnes or 2%. Greenhouse savings from upgrades to more energy efficient diesel and LPG vehicles have balanced out increased vehicle kilometres travelled in the heavy vehicle fleet.

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

Graph 3 - Darebin's Corporate Emissions by Sector



The Energy Efficiency Program

Council's energy efficiency program in the "Top 11" buildings continues to be very successful in achieving further savings demonstrated in bill data compared to 2008/2009 and large reductions compared to 2006/2007 prior to the implementation of the new program.

The graph below (which does not take into consideration the GreenPower purchase) indicates that most sites have maintained greenhouse reductions achieved in 2008/2009 with Reservoir Leisure Centre (128 tonnes), Bundoora Park (65 tonnes), Northcote Town Hall (54 tonnes) and Darebin Civic Centre (48 tonnes) achieving further significant reductions from the previous financial year.

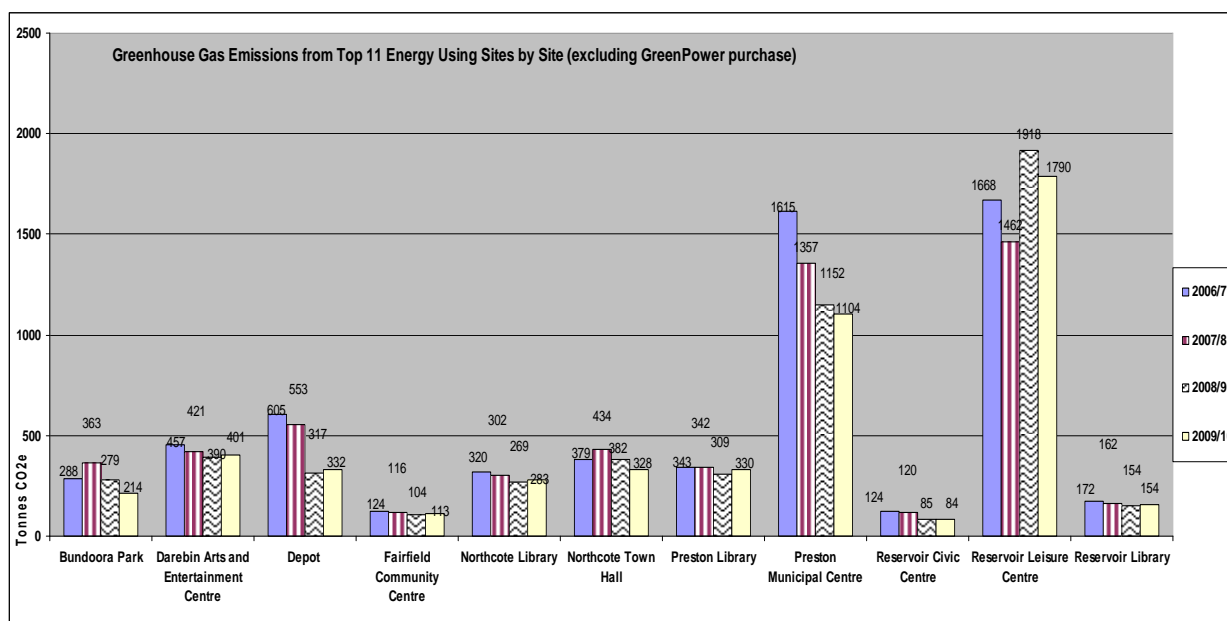
Emission reductions at Northcote Town Hall in 2009/2010 have occurred in the context of significant increased facility use of 46% from 2008/2009, which is a very positive result. Emissions at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre have increased only marginally (2%) compared to a 12% increase in facility use in 2009/2010 compared to the previous year.

Since the implementation of the program, emissions from the Darebin Civic Centre have reduced by 32%, at the Reservoir Depot by 45% and Reservoir Civic Centre by 32%. This is a great result compared to the 20% reduction often quoted as achievable for average Australian buildings by Sustainability Victoria – a figure rarely demonstrated in practice.

Emissions at Reservoir Leisure Centre increased significantly in 2008/2009 following the redevelopment of the centre which included the new hydrotherapy pool, extension of the gymnasium and the sauna. Emissions have since been reduced with the installation and operation of the pool blanket, recommissioning of the passive solar hot water pre-heater on the roof of the centre and optimisation of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning controls.

Modest greenhouse reductions have occurred and been maintained at all of the libraries with works completed last financial year and scheduled for this year that should assist with further energy and greenhouse reductions.

Graph 4 – Top 11 Building Emissions



Key actions undertaken in the energy efficiency program in 2009/2010 include:

- Optimisation of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) controls at Reservoir Leisure Centre and Bundoora Park Visitors Centre
- Upgrade of evaporative cooling with back flow prevention dampers at the Reservoir Civic Centre
- Installation of a new energy efficient air-conditioning system at the Fairfield Library
- Retrofitting of a double glazing solution to the northern and western windows of the 274 Gower Street Preston building
- A voltage optimisation system fitted to the 274 Gower Street Preston building
- Upgrade to energy efficiency kitchen hot water systems at the Darebin Civic Centre site and the Preston and Northcote libraries
- A range of lighting upgrades and installation of sensors and timers across various sites.

Some of these actions are likely to contribute to further savings this financial year.

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

Darebin is also active in aiming to achieve more environmentally efficient new facilities. Through Darebin's participation in the *Accelerating Sustainable Buildings* program, funded through the Sustainability Fund in 2009, new and detailed guidelines for new building projects have been developed - *Darebin ESD Requirements - Sustainable Design for Council Buildings*. The guidelines include energy and water efficiency targets for new buildings. Review of implementation will occur annually through the Greenhouse Steering Group.

Table 1 indicates cost savings based on the difference in electricity and gas usage in 2009/2010 compared to the baseline year of 2006/2007 (prior to the implementation of the current energy efficiency program) based on current electricity and gas tariffs which have increased substantially over the period.²

The savings in gas and electricity across all sites, based on the bill data are \$430,725 a year. The increases in electricity costs at Reservoir Leisure Centre as indicated in Table 1 are a result of the redevelopment of the centre which occurred after the 2006/2007 baseline year. It is important to note that in addition to the significant reduction in gas usage, electricity use costs also reduced in 2009/2010 by \$2,400 compared to the previous year.

There were also avoided costs in the redevelopment of the Reservoir Leisure Centre, with the increase in emissions expected to be around twice as high without inclusion of energy efficiency features in the redevelopment, so total cost savings are higher than those indicated.

Table 1 – Energy Efficiency Program - estimated annual cost savings 2009/2010

² Savings are based on a comparison of electricity and gas use in 2006/2007 and what that magnitude of use would cost at today's electricity (average 18.9c/kWh) and gas charges (4c/ MJ at Reservoir Leisure Centre and average of 10c /MJ at other sites) compared to actual costs for this year. These rates include distribution tariffs that are also based on energy consumption. Actual savings are likely to be larger as energy use trends were continuing upward prior to the implementation of the energy efficiency program.

Facility	Electricity	Gas	Total Saving
Bundoora Park	\$8,809	\$16,103	\$24,912
Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre	\$7,632	-\$6,153	\$1,479
Depot	\$37,375	\$0.00	\$37,375
Fairfield Community Centre	\$1,259	\$0.00	\$1,259
Northcote Library	\$4,048	\$9,864	\$13,913
Northcote Town Hall	\$5,420	\$17,445	\$22,865
Preston Library	-\$1,972	\$46,028	\$44,056
Preston Municipal Centre	\$57,080	\$170,968	\$228,048
Reservoir Civic Centre	\$4,383	\$14,891	\$19,275
Reservoir Leisure Centre	-\$30,148	\$64,782	\$34,634
Reservoir Library	\$2,220	\$688	\$2,909
Total Cost Savings Achieved	\$96,106	\$334,619	\$430,725

Recommended Change in Greenhouse Emissions Inventory

To date Council's corporate greenhouse emissions inventory has been based on the former *Cities for Climate Protection* emissions inventory model (gas and electricity use in buildings where we pay the bills, street-lighting, estimated waste from Council operations, vehicle fleet). Due to discontinuation of Australian Government funding, the Cities for Climate Protection program ended in June 2009.

Review of Darebin's Greenhouse Inventory

The Municipal Association of Victoria has recommended Councils move to report greenhouse emissions in line with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGERs) model. The Essential Services Commission are currently piloting the reporting of Councils' greenhouse emissions in line with the NGERs model with 21 volunteer Councils with a view to include this as an indicator for all Councils from 2012. It is therefore timely that Darebin move to the NGERs reporting model.

The NGERs model identifies emissions in three high level categories (or 'scopes') as per below:

- **Scope 1 Emissions** - direct emissions from onsite activity eg. combustion of fuel for energy, industrial processes, waste disposal where the landfill is owned and managed by Council. *Scope 1 emissions relevant to Darebin: Gas and Vehicle Fuel Use.*
- **Scope 2 Emissions** - indirect emissions from activities inside the facility boundary ie. use of electricity, steam etc. *Scope 2 emissions relevant to Darebin - electricity use for buildings where Council pays the bills.*³
- **Scope 3 Emissions (voluntary reporting)** - emissions outside of the boundary of the facility as a result of activities at a facility eg. *disposal of waste, business travel of employees, use of products and services, electricity and gas use at leased space where Council is not the tenant.*
- **Scope 3 Emissions (for achieving Carbon Neutrality)** While reporting of any Scope 3 emissions is regarded as voluntary, the recently released Australian Government's *National Carbon Offset Standards* indicate that for organisations wishing to achieve

³ The 'Facility Boundary' and therefore what fits under Scope 2 as opposed to Scope 3 emissions is defined by Operational Control. **Operational Control Definition** - The greatest authority to introduce and implement any or all of the following for the Facility: (i) operating policies; (ii) health and safety policies; (iii) environmental policies. Only one corporation can have operational control over a Facility at any time.

and claim Carbon Neutrality the following Scope 3 emissions should be included at a minimum:

- o From business travel of employees;
- o Disposal of waste generated by the organisation; and
- o Use of paper.

Collecting accurate data and taking responsibility for these Scope 3 emissions is therefore a minimum requirement for achieving and promoting Darebin's 2020 Carbon Neutral target.

Proposal for revising Darebin's emissions inventory

There are quite significant changes in data collection and reporting requirements under the NGERs model compared to Darebin's current practices even for those categories where data is already collected (eg. gas and electricity use at facilities where Council pays the bills). The estimated implications of the change in inventory model are presented in **Appendix A**. Scope 1 and 2 emissions are expected to be around 8,330 tonnes (56%) less than our current inventory (without GreenPower considered) and if all the listed Scope 3 emissions were to be included a net increase of at least ~16,164 tonnes (85% increase on current inventory). Including Scope 1 and 2 emissions and only those Scope 3 emissions required for claiming carbon neutrality is estimated to still be around a 51% reduction on the current inventory boundary.

It is proposed that the best way forward for Darebin is as follows:

- 1) There are two levels of reporting as recommended by the MAV and that Darebin's 2010/2011 emissions are reported in this format:
 - Council Corporate Emissions (Operational Control) - (Scope 1 and 2) - vehicle fuel use, diesel or cogeneration systems, electricity and gas usage at facilities and Council owned public lighting where Council pays the bills.
 - Scope 3 emissions - those emissions over which Council has less control but does have the capacity to influence. Scope 3 emissions fall into 3 different groups:
 - o Those that need to be reported on and abated to achieve carbon neutrality as per above ie. business travel, waste and paper use
 - o Those that Council can influence and can gather good quality data eg. contracted services such as recycling and leased buildings
 - o Those that we have little influence or control over OR where collection of data is not currently feasible eg. purchase of products other than paper.
- 2) There is a staged introduction of more Scope 3 emissions each year between 2010/2011 and 2015. This will spread the significant time commitment required to gather the necessary data and accurately report on these emissions. Those Scope 3 emissions that are necessary for achieving carbon neutrality ie. business travel, waste and paper use will be prioritised.
- 3) In 2015, when as many Scope 3 emissions as practicable are being reported and a firm baseline is established, Council considers how to treat various Scope 3 emissions in relation to the 2020 Carbon Neutral Target. For example, if Darebin aims to continue with a strong climate change leadership position Council may

decide to take responsibility for and abate Scope 3 emissions in addition to those that are mandatory for achieving carbon neutrality or Council may decide to set a different reduction target for additional Scope 3 emissions.

- 4) The future Review of the Climate Change Action Plan (Council Operations) identifies actions to reduce emissions from all reporting emissions including Scope 3.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The Climate Change Action Plan has saved more than 6,000 tonnes of emissions from Council's Corporate operations through the energy efficiency program and the purchase of GreenPower. This is a significant environmental achievement. Overall emission levels were maintained well below the 2010 target despite an increase in street-lighting emissions which are largely due to better quality data collection. The success of Darebin's energy efficiency program and commitment to climate change action demonstrates leadership and helps inspire action within the Darebin community and other organisations.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The energy efficiency program helps contribute to more comfortable and efficient facilities and venues and helps inspire action within the community and other organisations.

Other

The Climate Change Action Plan is consistent with the Council Plan in demonstrating leadership and fostering sustainability.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

As indicated in the report, the energy efficiency program is saving \$430,000/year on electricity and gas bills compared to usage in 2006/2007 prior to the introduction of the program. This is a conservative estimate based on current energy costs that does not include avoided costs and the prior increasing trend in energy consumption. In 2009/2010 the capital cost of the Energy Efficiency Program was \$296,000 with all projects satisfying a 15 year pay back. The energy efficiency program assists in future-proofing Darebin's facilities for the anticipated increases in energy costs in the short to medium term.

FUTURE ACTIONS

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

- Continuing to purchase GreenPower for all Council facilities in 2010/2011
- Continuation of the energy efficiency program in Council's "Top 11" sites in 2010/2011 with an estimated reduction of 187 tonnes
- Commence implementation of the replacement of 80W Mercury Vapour lights with energy efficient T5s in a staged roll-out from 2010/2011. This is a key initiative in order to achieve the 2020 target and to further progress towards this target. Recent announcements of funding support of up to \$500,000 from the Australian Government's

Low Carbon Communities program and up to \$500,000 per Council from the Victorian Government (from 2012/2013) are likely to make the current payback (10- 18 years) more attractive

- Continue to gather data for reporting in line with the NGERs inventory model as of 2010/2011
- Fleet review to consider and implement options for reducing greenhouse emissions from the vehicle fleet
- Consideration of detailed feasibility study for cogeneration at the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan

Darebin Climate Change Action Plan - Council Operations

Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan.

Appendix A - *Comparison of Darebin's Current Greenhouse Gas Inventory (2009/2010) with the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting NGERs model.*

8.8 COMMUNITY CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN ANNUAL REVIEW**MINUTE NO. 419****AUTHOR: Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett****REVIEWED BY: Acting Director City Design and Environment - Adrian Burns****SUMMARY:**

This report summarises the success and progress of the Community Climate Change Action Plan following its first year of implementation. The Community Climate Change Action Plan was adopted by Council in June 2009 and aims to support the Darebin community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A separate Climate Change Action Plan focuses on reducing Council's corporate greenhouse emissions and is the subject of a separate report (see previous Report Item 8.7).

Key highlights of the Community Climate Change Action Plan include:

- Recognition of Council's leadership in industry, state and national awards;
- Leveraging significant state funding and support for our community through these programs; and
- Delivering significant community cost savings (in excess of \$144,000/year) and other positive outcomes for the Darebin community including: improved comfort; weatherproofing of homes; convenience and time savings; community connections; increased knowledge and capacity building.

Future programs and continued implementation of ongoing programs will build on these successes and further support our community to reduce greenhouse emissions.

CONSULTATION:

Manager Environment and Natural Resources
Coordinator Home Support Services
Sustainable Business Officer
Environmental Education and Promotions Coordinator
Environment Officer Projects and Data Management

RECOMMENDATION**THAT** Council:

- (1) Note this report and continue to implement Darebin's Community Climate Change Action to support the Darebin community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- (2) Endorse the 'One Million Homes Advocacy Campaign' to advocate for further retrofitting of low income households across Victoria.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

- (1) Note this report and continue to implement Darebin's Community Climate Change Action to support the Darebin community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- (2) Endorse the 'One Million Homes Advocacy Campaign' to advocate for further retrofitting of low income households across Victoria and write to all newly elected local Members of Parliament requesting their support for the proposal.

CARRIED

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Following an extensive community consultation and engagement process, at its meeting on 15 June 2009, Council resolved to:

Adopt the Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan which includes the following key actions and commitments:

- (1) *Endorsement of a Zero Net Emissions target for the Darebin community by 2020;*
- (2) *Facilitation of a large scale roll-out of solar and energy efficient hot water systems;*
- (3) *Establishment of the Darebin Climate Wise Business program - to assist local businesses and industry to become more energy efficient;*
- (4) *Support for the disadvantaged and those most vulnerable to climate change impacts and increasing energy costs through energy efficiency retrofits;*
- (5) *Pilot of a program with one of Darebin's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities to ensure that information and energy efficiency seminars are culturally relevant and accessible; and*
- (6) *Continuation of Council advocacy and community engagement on climate change.*

This report provides an update on the progress and achievements of Darebin's Community Climate Change Action Plan following the first year of implementation. Progress on Council's Corporate Climate Change Action Plan is presented in a separate report.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Overall Outcomes

Darebin's climate change action (both in reducing greenhouse emissions within Council operations and in supporting the Darebin community to reduce emissions) has been well recognised via the following award achievements:

- Winner of the National Environs Australia Award for *Achievement in Sustainability - Urban and Larger Councils* category (August 2009)
- Finalist in the Premier's Sustainability Award in the *Local Government* Category (March 2010)
- Winner of both the *Local Government Energy Saving Champion Award* and the *Local Government Green Powered Champion Award* at the EcoBuy Awards (May 2010)
- Winner of the United Nations Association of Australia's *Meeting the Greenhouse Challenge Award* (June 2010)
- Winner of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Award for *Community Climate Change Action* - which also featured Darebin's leadership in reducing emissions in Council's own operations (June 2010).
- Finalist in the National Banksia Awards for Leading in Sustainability Award - Setting the Standard for Large Organisations (October 2010).

The leadership status of Darebin's Community Climate Change Action Plan has also been demonstrated via the following:

- Presentation regarding Insulation for the Elderly Program and Talking My Language Program at the Municipal Association of Victoria Environment Conference (April 2010)
- Launch presentation and case study in the Victorian Local Governance Association's 'Liveable and Just' Toolkit
- Sustainability Accord grant of \$125,000 to implement Talking My Language across 3 other municipalities
- Launch of the new Sustainability Accord Committee and funding by Minister Jennings in March 2010 at the Reservoir Civic Centre

Individual programs were highly successful and are outlined below:

Large Scale Roll-Out of Solar and Energy Efficient Hot Water

Hot water can account for up to one quarter of a household's greenhouse emissions and upgrading to a more efficient hot water system reduces energy bills. Solar or energy efficient hot water systems are therefore a very cost effective way to reduce household greenhouse gas emissions.

Through brokering a deal on behalf of the community, Councils can often achieve discounted or competitive prices and Council selection, endorsement and promotions can make it easier for households to take action by reducing the common barriers that residents experience, including not enough time and uncertainty about what product to choose.

Darebin led the program and partnered with the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd. (MEFL) and Moreland City Council. The partners held a competitive expression of interest process that was sent to all local and major hot water suppliers and manufacturers in February 2010. Ten companies submitted written responses, six of which were interviewed.

Servco Pty Ltd were selected to deliver the program based on the quality and cost effectiveness of the hot water systems they proposed, their experience in hot water delivery,

having worked for a number of years with a large energy retailer, and their customer service and contractor capacity.

The offers selected and endorsed by Council were very good value and included:

System Type	Application	Cost*	Comment
Rinnai Sunmaster System 3 - Flat Panel Solar, instantaneous gas boosted.	The standard system on offer for households with good solar access.	\$1,583.50	A very reasonable price. It is not uncommon to pay around \$3,000 for a system of this kind after rebates.
Solar Lord Evacuated Tube Solar System, instantaneous gas boosted	Evacuated tubes are good for situations with partial shading or less than ideal solar access.	\$2,477	If damaged by severe hail, individual tubes can be replaced rather than the whole collector.
Bosch Instantaneous Gas systems	For households without good solar access	\$1,407	Particularly good for small and water efficient households.

* All prices quoted are the original (pre 1 July 2010) prices, GST inclusive for a standard installation for a 3 - 4 person household replacing a gas system with eligible rebates and Renewable Energy Certificates included.

The offer was widely promoted to Darebin residents including the following:

- Articles in December 2009, March 2010, June 2010 (La Trobe edition) and September 2010 Darebin News
- Articles in Sustainability News
- Media releases and Leader newspaper advertisements
- Letter box drop to all households
- Five public information sessions in April/May 2010 with over 280 people attending
- Briefing to Northern Federation of Ethnic Senior Citizen Clubs (~12 Darebin and Moreland Group leaders/representatives)
- Schools newsletters via incentive offer
- An article included with the August rates notice.

Due to the ongoing high level of interest in the program, in June the original offer was renegotiated and the program extended until 31 August. All residents who requested a quote prior to 31 August will have received their quote by the end of October. Residents have until the end of November to accept quotes. The final number of participants will be known in early December 2010.

In early December 2010 participants will be sent a letter thanking them for their participation with a further cash back refund based on the level of uptake - currently expected to be \$100 for all households that installed a solar hot water system.

Full evaluation of the program including surveys of residents who initially expressed interest and those who installed a system will be undertaken in December and January.

The uptake in Darebin to date well exceeds the uptake achieved in similar solar hot water brokering programs by other local governments, including the uptake in the City of Moreland, our project partners. For example the solar hot water roll-out in the Cities of Manningham and Nillumbik in 2009 resulted in a total of around 70 installations across the two municipalities.

Results for the Solar Hot Water Roll-out - current as of 14 October 2010

	Not continuing with quote	Quote still pending consideration	Accepted Quote	Total
% of Total Contacts	52%	21%	27%	
Total No. (Darebin, Moreland and staff)	768	320	396	1,484
Total No. Darebin	605	213	276	1,094 (70% of uptake)

The greenhouse emissions savings vary significantly based on the type of system that is replaced but are estimated to be at least 200 tonnes, with further assessment to take place following the participant survey.

Due to cost savings achieved in project implementation by developing and assessing the supplier expression of interest in-house, solar hot water systems were able to be installed at five Darebin child care centres: Preston Day Care, Raleigh Street Child Care Thornbury; Reservoir Child Care; Perry Street Child Care, Fairfield Child; Merri Child Care, Thornbury.

The Feasibility Study to assess the best option for delivering bulk roll-outs of environmental products on an ongoing basis has been postponed until this financial year due to the rapidly changing Commonwealth and State Government policy context including the administration of Renewable Energy Certificates for small scale installations, and to take advantage of the evaluation results of the Solar Hot Water Roll-out.

Support for the Disadvantaged and Those Most Vulnerable to Climate Change

Two significant projects have been delivered since the adoption of the Community Climate Change Action Plan to assist those most vulnerable to rising energy costs and the impacts of climate change.

1) Insulation for the Elderly

This was an innovative program designed and implemented by Darebin (Home Support in partnership with Environment and Natural Resources) with the majority of funding (\$60,000) from the Department of Human Services and \$11,000 from Darebin. The program targeted Homes Support Clients in an area of Reservoir where home ownership is relatively high.

The program added value to the former Commonwealth Government ceiling insulation rebate program by:

- Selecting reliable, local insulation installers to deliver a good quality service
- Assisting those residents who were eligible to access the Federal Government rebate
- Covering the difference in cost between quotes and the Federal Government rebate amount of \$1,200 so that there was no cost to Home Support Clients
- Making insulation top-ups available for those households that had existing yet inadequate insulation and were therefore not eligible for the federal government rebate.

Details	Number of Clients	Cost
Committed to participate	73	
Received insulation top up	36	\$68,039.20
Received full insulation via rebate	4	\$1,218.00
Insulation installed by different company	19 (14 of which then had inspections from Darebin engaged installers)	\$2,310.00
Cancelled for other reason	14	
Total Spent		\$71,567.20

The Insulation for the Elderly program was a success in that 40 residents now have good quality ceiling insulation and at least another 14 with adequate insulation (installed by others but checked by Darebin installers). This will contribute to keeping these households warmer in winter, cooler in summer and reducing energy bills by decreasing the need for mechanical heating and cooling.

The majority of participants (who were surveyed in the milder autumn period) had already noticed a positive difference to the comfort of their home.

The program was quite resource intensive in terms of officer time, and delivered a high quality service to a small number of households for the funding invested. The Commonwealth Government rebate for ceiling insulation has now ended and it is highly unlikely to be continued in the near future. Due to some of the unfortunate situations that occurred through the Australian Government rebate scheme, perceptions of ceiling insulation in the community are unfortunately still quite negative.

2) Energy and Water Task Force (EWTF)

The Energy and Water Taskforce is a Victorian Government program that provides free household assessments and retrofits for pensioners and concession card holders. The service includes free provision and installation of energy saving light globes, water saving showerheads, repair of leaking taps, draught sealing and fitted blinds where required. The program also provides skills development and employment opportunities for trainees.

Past EWTF program results have shown that a household receiving the EWTF service can make annual savings of up to \$200 on their energy and water bills via an average annual reduction of nine percent in electricity consumption and sixteen percent for gas.

Darebin extensively promoted the program through a large range of networks, face-to-face presentations and via mail-outs to Darebin Home Support clients.

Darebin also extended the program by providing funding for fitted blinds if required for more than two windows in the living rooms or occupied bedrooms.

The Darebin extension was highly successful in that it enabled a further 302 Darebin households to receive the Energy and Water Taskforce service, however fewer households than originally estimated required the additional blinds. Across the 302 households visited, 45 required additional blinds and 81 additional Darebin funded blinds were fitted in these households. The total project cost to Council was around \$13,000.

Darebin's active promotion of the Energy and Water Taskforce and the implementation of the Darebin extension program has ensured that Victorian Government targets for both service providers (LESS and Mission Australia) were reached with a much higher proportion of Darebin residents participating than originally anticipated (compared to other municipalities within the project target areas).

	No. of Darebin Households	Darebin Suburbs	Other municipalities targeted	% of program target delivered in Darebin
LESS (original program)	261	Northcote, Thornbury, Fairfield and Alphington	Yarra, Boroondara	60%
LESS (Darebin Enhancement)	302	Mostly Preston and Reservoir	Yarra, Boroondara	
Mission Australia	230	Preston, Reservoir, Kingsbury, Bundoora and Macleod	Banyule, Greater Dandenong, Casey, Monash, Boroondara & some regional shires	77%
Darebin Total	793			

3) Other support of Vulnerable Members of the Community

Through the Community Climate Change Action Plan, Darebin has also:

- Delivered an energy efficiency seminar for 40 residents in the East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal area focussing on energy and cost saving opportunities and support and discounts available for low income households
- Representation on the steering committee and support of Kildonan's Sustainable Families Project targeting 300 families across the North East Family Services Alliance.

Working with Darebin's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Communities

The Talking My Language Program

The Talking My Language program is a partnership program with ethnic groups to prepare and disseminate culturally relevant, translated information about climate change and energy efficiency. The first partnership program was with the Reservoir Greek Elderly Citizens Group. Through a series of focus groups meetings, input from Greek community members was used to develop a culturally relevant energy efficiency brochure in the Greek language and to deliver a launch event.

The launch of the brochure by the Mayor, Cr Vince Fontana, was attended by over 80 people and members of the Reservoir Greek Elderly Citizens Group were presented with a free energy efficient starter kit containing draught sealing products, energy efficient light globes, an energy smart thermometer etc.

Feedback from participants regarding the program, the brochure, the launch and the energy kit was overwhelmingly positive.

As indicated above this project model has been funded by the Sustainability Accord for \$125,000 to deliver the program across three other municipalities, led by Darebin with Yarra, Maribyrnong and Greater Shepparton commencing in 2011.

Darebin has meanwhile commenced work with members of the Macedonian community on our second Talking My Language partnership roll-out.

Reaching and engaging with Darebin's Diverse Community

All Community Climate Change Action Plan initiatives have aimed to be inclusive of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. Activities include:

- Program briefings and updates to Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC) and the Northern Federation of Ethnic Senior Citizen Clubs
- Insulation for the Elderly fact sheets and consent forms translated into Italian and communicated via Italian speaking Home Support workers
- Solar Hot Water roll-out summary information translated into community languages and requirement for service provider to make use of a telephone translation service where required
- Advocacy and liaison with Sustainability Victoria regarding translations of the Energy and Water Taskforce program information and distribution via relevant community groups, DECC and Northern Federation of Ethnic Senior Citizen Clubs
- Liaison with Energy and Water Taskforce service providers, Low Energy Supplies and Services (LESS), to present in community languages via the use of interpreters about the program to a number of seniors clubs.
- Promotion of the Energy and Water Taskforce program to the Darebin Aboriginal community through community radio and a presentation to the delivery team of the Environment Victoria funded Green Towns project who worked in partnership with the Aborigines Advancement League.
- Summary translations, invitations (written and via phone) to attend Climate Change Leaders' Forums.

Establishment of the Darebin Climate Wise Business Program

Just over half of Darebin's community greenhouse gas emissions come from the industry and commercial sectors so working with businesses was another key priority of the plan.

This program supports business and industry with energy efficiency upgrades to reduce bills and emissions. It is delivered by Darebin's Sustainable Business Officer (0.4 EFT) in the Economic Development and Employment Department. Stage 1 of the program, the Light\$mart – Efficient Lighting Upgrade Program pilot was launched in March 2010.

The Light\$mart Program works with businesses/organisations of all sizes to upgrade their lights to more energy efficient models and/or seek opportunities for delamping. To date two large organisations, La Trobe University and Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT) have completed lighting upgrades of almost 1,100 lights in total. An additional eight local businesses/organisations have signed up to the program and will have lighting assessments conducted from November 2010. Results of the pilot program will be presented to Council in 2011.

Continuation of Council advocacy and community engagement on Climate Change.Advocacy

In 2009/2010 Darebin made advocacy submissions regarding climate change action to:

- The Victorian Government's Climate Change Green Paper (August 2009)
- The draft exposure of the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Bill (December 2009)
- Treatment of 'Solar Credits' Renewable Energy Certificates under the Renewable Energy Target (January 2010)
- Supported a number of submissions via the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA).

One Million Homes Advocacy Campaign

An alliance of social support organisations led by Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS) and environmental groups including Environment Victoria are calling on the Victorian Government to fund the retrofitting of one million homes focussing on low income and vulnerable members of the community over the next five years. The alliance has launched the One Million Homes advocacy campaign (www.environmentvictoria.org.au/onemillionhomes).

Climate Change Leaders' Forums

A Climate Change Leaders' Forum was held in June 2010 with around twenty five people from a diverse range of organisations attending. The forum sought input on the best model for continuing engagement and support of community leaders on climate change action. There was strong interest in continuing to meet and the benefits identified included networking opportunities, sharing information and inspiration and skills development.

A second Climate Change Leaders' Forum seeking input on the Sustainable Homes and Communities program that will be delivered from 2011, is planned for November this year.

Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action - *Towards Zero Net Emissions*

Darebin is an active member of the Northern Alliance of Greenhouse Action (NAGA) via the Executive, Steering Group and members' network.

Darebin is a lead Council in two *Towards Zero Net Emission* projects:

- Promoting Community Transport Program - Darebin hosted a Community Transport forum in October 2010 to share case studies and methodologies for promoting sustainable transport options. The forum was attended by around 25 officers from across the region and a survey to assess interest in an ongoing sustainable transport network is being conducted.
- Darebin is co-lead in the industrial/commercial energy efficiency programs and shares information and learnings from the Darebin Light\$mart program

Darebin is also represented on the project steering group for the De-carbonising the Energy Supply program that is funded by the Sustainability Fund and aims to deliver bulk brokering programs with a range of environmental products across the NAGA region in 2011. The program will also document and test the best methods and opportunities for delivering and promoting these programs on an ongoing basis.

Community Greenhouse Emissions Data

Darebin is participating in a NAGA coordinated process being led by Yarra City Council in partnership with the Department of Sustainability and Environment to establish data collection guidelines and protocols for the provision of aggregated community electricity and gas data from the relevant distribution companies.

While community energy use data (gas and electricity) is currently being provided to Darebin at the postcode level it has not been consistent to date and is therefore considered not to be highly reliable. Standard data protocols will enable reporting and tracking of greenhouse emissions from municipal wide use of electricity and gas on a regular basis.

According to the Victorian Utilities Household Consumption Survey 2007, the average electricity use per household in Victoria was 15 kWh per day and 150Mj was the average daily gas consumption. Demand for energy in Victoria is increasing at a rate of 1.6% per year according to Sustainability Victoria. Using these figures an estimate of greenhouse gas emissions per household in Victoria from gas and electricity consumption in 2010 is 10.8 tonnes CO₂-e with a continuing trend of increased emissions.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

As indicated in the body of the report, the implementation of the Community Climate Change Action Plan has been successful in supporting broad cross sections of the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Water savings have also been achieved, particularly through the implementation of the Energy and Water Taskforce program.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Working with Darebin's diverse community and assisting those most vulnerable to rising energy costs and climate change impacts are priorities under the Plan. In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions the projects outlined have a range of other community benefits including:

- Reduced energy bills
- Improved home comfort and liveability
- Improving weather-proofing for more extreme climatic conditions
- Improved access to information, cost effective products and rebates etc
- Community engagement and capacity building
- Skills development, traineeships and employment opportunities for local suppliers.

Other

The Community Climate Change Action Plan is consistent with the Council Plan in demonstrating leadership and fostering sustainability.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The projects have been implemented within the allocated budget and with significant community cost savings (in excess of \$144,000/year) and other positive outcomes for the Darebin community including: improved comfort; weatherproofing of homes; convenience and time savings; community connections; increased knowledge and capacity building.

Cost savings of \$26,000 during implementation of the Solar Hot Water Roll-out enabled the installation of five solar hot water systems at Darebin Child Care Centres which will deliver ongoing savings on centre energy bills.

The installation of 276 solar hot water systems in Darebin can achieve total savings on energy bills of around \$49,000/year (depending on usage patterns and the type of hot water system replaced).

Additional Victorian Government funding (in the vicinity of \$250,000) was leveraged via the Darebin enhancement of the Energy and Water Taskforce program and more than 300 Darebin pensioner/concession card holder households benefited from the enhancement program. Annual community savings from the Energy and Water Taskforce program are expected to be at least \$95,000/year (based on average savings of \$120/year per household).

As noted above, the Talking My Language program has leveraged \$125,000 from the Sustainability Accord to deliver the program across Darebin and three other municipalities with the expectation of energy efficiency translated material available in four new community languages - benefiting CALD communities across the state.

Savings from improved insulation, energy efficiency seminars and information have not been estimated in this report (due to high variability between households) but can be as high as 10-20% on average energy bills (\$180-\$360/year per household) when concerted action is taken.

These community savings are expected to increase in value over time as energy prices continue to rise. Savings assist Darebin residents to future proof against these increasing costs.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Implementation of the Community Climate Change Action Plan is continuing with the following key actions in 2010/2011:

- Talking My Language - partnership roll-out with the Macedonian Community and commencement of the Sustainability Accord program led by Darebin across four municipalities in 2011
- Ongoing implementation of the Light\$mart program with Darebin businesses
- Darebin Fan Fair - *beat the heat in summer* program with the bulk purchase of at least 1,000 pedestal fans to be distributed and provided free of charge to Home Care Clients and other vulnerable members of the community. Home Support staff and service providers will assess needs
- Completion of the Solar Hot Water Roll-out Evaluation and the Feasibility Study regarding ongoing roll-outs conducted

- Further bulk roll-outs commenced and promoted via the NAGA partnership program Decarbonising the Energy Supply
- Ongoing advocacy and community engagement including a Climate Change Community Leaders' Forum in November
- Implementation of the Sustainable Homes and Communities program in 2011 to engage households and community groups in friendly competition to reduce energy, water and waste and to travel, garden and eat more sustainably.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan
Darebin Climate Change Action Plan - Council Operations
Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan.

8.9 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND 'GENERAL BUSINESS' ITEMS OUTSTANDING**MINUTE NO. 420****AUTHOR: Council Business Coordinator – Ron Downes****REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Business Services – Bruce Dobson****SUMMARY:**

This report provides a summary of the status of reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at October 2010.

CONSULTATION:

Executive Management Team

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the status report on Reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at October 2010, attached as **Appendix A** to this report, be received and noted.

CARRIED**REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

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

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

A schedule of the reports and actions outstanding as at October 2010 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 AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The next status report will be submitted to Council at its meeting on 20 December 2010.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Minutes of previous meetings of the Council.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

10.1 LOW COST HOUSING

MINUTE NO. 421

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT Councillors receive a briefing on a new proposal to build low cost housing on vacant Council land.

CARRIED

11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm