



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

TUESDAY, 22 APRIL 2014

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 24 APRIL 2014

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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON TUESDAY 22 APRIL 2014**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.04 PM

WELCOME

The Chairperson, Cr. Greco, in opening the meeting acknowledged the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of the land.

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr Gaetano Greco (Mayor) (Chairperson)
Cr Tim Laurence
Cr Bo Li
Cr Trent McCarthy
Cr Steven Tsitas
Cr Angela Villella
Cr Oliver Walsh (7.08 pm)
Cr Julie Williams (Deputy Mayor)

Council Officers

Katina Knox – Acting Chief Executive
Paul Crapper – Director Corporate and Planning Services
Daniel Freer – Director Culture, Leisure and Works
Steve Hamilton – Director Assets and Business Services
Darren Rudd – Manager City Development
Jacinta Stevens – Manager Corporate Governance and Performance
Dave Bell – Senior Media Advisor
Katia Croce – Coordinator Council Business
Jody Brodribb – Council Business and Governance Officer

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was lodged on behalf of Cr. Vince Fontana who was on approved leave of absence and for the initial absence of Cr. Oliver Walsh.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Greco declared an 'interest' in Item 8.5 (Governance Framework – Councillors Interests).

Cr. McCarthy declared an 'interest' in Item 8.10 (Proposed Right-of-Way (Road) Discontinuance rear 80A Oakover Road and 2 Dudley Street, Preston) and Item 11.1 (Intercultural Centre).

Cr. Walsh declared an 'interest' in *Item 8.13 (Darebin Jobs Action Plan)*.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 7 April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. J. Williams
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 14 April 2014 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 221

5.1 REPORT OF CR. BO LI

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

- Citizenship ceremony
- Metropolitan Waste Management Group meeting
- Nepalese Association of Victoria intercultural night
- Koorie Pride Youth Festival
- Planning Committee meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
- Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee meeting
- Joint board meeting of Community Chef and Regional Kitchens
- Darebin Ethnic Community Councils meeting
- Darebin Community and Kite Festival Reference Group meeting
- Residential matters including community safety, planning zone changes and local amenity issues

Cr. Walsh entered the meeting during Cr. Li's activities discussion – 7.08 pm

5.2 REPORT OF CR. JULIE WILLIAMS

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

- Citizenship Ceremony
- Catch up with EPIC that Support Families with disabilities
- Closing Ceremony at the Shire Hall for Leading Women's Health and Safety Project
- Visit La Trobe University bus tour around the 250+ hectares
- Santa Maria Debutante Ball
- Pre Planning Committee meeting
- Council Briefing Session
- Preston Business Advisory Easter event at the Preston Market
- Attended Residents issues regarding Vic Track, Community Support Fund, Beatifying the street, Laneway concerns.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. OLIVER WALSH

Cr. Walsh offered his condolences on the passing of Cr. Nicola Davis from City of Whittlesea.

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

- Met with young mothers group about the Northcote Pool, and other issues.
- Launch of Northern Horizons event
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Launch of Postcards from Darebin with Darebin Community Health
- Planning Committee meeting
- Future of Local Government Forum
- MAV Metro Forum and Dinner
- Special Council meeting
- Sports fees and Special charges meeting
- Meeting with Cr Amanda Stapledon
- Nepal evening at Intercultural centre with the Hon. Chandra Yonzin Victorian Console general Nepal

5.4 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

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

- Planning Committee meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Constituent issues

5.5 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Planning Committee meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Constituent issues

5.6 REPORT OF CR. ANGELA VILLELLA

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

- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC) Committee meeting
- Darebin Community and Kite Festival Reference Group meeting
- North Reservoir Italian Pension Group Easter lunch
- Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board meeting
- Pre planning meeting
- Planning Committee meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Intercultural Centre – Inter-generational Conflict - A workshop for culturally and linguistically diverse families planning meeting with DECC
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Men's Shed visit

5.7 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Planning Committee meeting
- Special Council meeting
- Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
- Residents and traders issues, including:
 - planning zone changes
 - planning permits required for solar panels in a heritage overlay
 - the loss of a historically significant house and vegetation
 - fencing issues between adjoining property owners
 - Alphington Station proposal and impact on bushland
 - increased speeding and heavy vehicle traffic in local streets
 - graffiti
 - Council's banking / financial investments in fossil fuel industry and possible inconsistencies with Council's climate policy
 - street furniture
 - management and maintenance of Bridge Park
 - safer cycling routes for local families
- Congratulations and farewell to Jim Killeen, outgoing CEO of Darebin Health
- Congratulations to local animal rescue groups and Council officers for saving over 100 Darebin pets since the introduction of our new 'No Kill' policy

5.8 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Planning Committee meeting
- Council Briefing Session
- Council meeting
- Italian Pensioner Lunch
- Northern Horizons – 50 Infrastructure Strategy for Melbourne’s North
- Citizenship Ceremony
- MAV Metropolitan Forum and Dinner
- Visit to LaTrobe University
- Meeting with Mr. Marciano regarding Walk Through Bethlehem
- Nepalese Intercultural Night with Hon Consul General of Nepal
- Koorie Pride Youth Festival
- RSL Anzac Day Lunch
- Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees
- Discussion regarding Garage Sale Trail
- Dance Fit – Arabic Dance Exercise DVD Launch
- Briefing regarding Waste Collection Experience
- Waste Collection Experience
- Visit to Customer Service Preston
- Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board meeting
- Friends of Baucau meeting
- Resident Meeting – Sophie Tzirozidis
- Pensioner Club Easter Lunch
- Vaisakhi Event
- DECC Committee meeting
- Darebin Community and Kite Festival
- Photo Opportunity – Skate Bowl, All Nations Park Northcote
- Stephen Fiyalko, CEO and Others from the Wurundjeri Council

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

MINUTE NO. 222

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

The following questions were submitted:

- John Nugent of Epping asked a question regarding insurance for school children using Keon Park. The question was responded to by the Director Culture, Leisure and Works, Daniel Freer.
- Frank Pizzo asked a question regarding the allocation of sports grounds. The question was responded to by the Director Culture, Leisure and Works, Daniel Freer and the Chairperson, Cr. Greco.

After Public Question Time had concluded, no further questions were submitted in writing.

7. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

7.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD

MINUTE NO. 223

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 Interfaith Council – 6 March 2014
- Darebin Anti-Racism Committee – 20 March 2014
- Council Budget Briefing – 31 March 2014
- Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee – 1 April 2014
- Darebin Environment Reference Group – 2 April 2014
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee – 7 April 2014
- Sports Fees and Charges Temporary Reference Group – 7 April 2014

Cr. McCarthy noted that the Darebin Environment Reference Group meeting on 2 April 2014 be amended to read will be standing for the State Elections later in the year.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. T. Laurence

THAT the record of the Assembly of Councillors held on 6, 20 and 31 March and 1, 2 and 7 April 2014 be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

CARRIED



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Interfaith Council
	Date:	Thursday 6 March 2014
	Location:	Darebin Intercultural Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Gaetano Greco
	Council Staff:	Cesar Diaz, Darren Aziz Cooper
	Other:	Representatives of faith communities and local agencies.
APOLOGIES:		Cr Angela Villella

The Assembly commenced at 6pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Welcome and Introductions	No disclosures were made
2	Interfaith Breakfast Seminars	No disclosures were made
3	Committee's Terms Of Reference	No disclosures were made
4	Strategic Action Plan 2014	No disclosures were made
5	Darebin Anti-Racism Committee	No disclosures were made
6	Other business	No disclosure were made

The Assembly concluded at 8.00pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	César Díaz
	Officer Title:	Multicultural Affairs Officer



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Anti-Racism Committee
	Date:	Thursday 20 March 2014
	Location:	Darebin Intercultural Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Gaetano Greco
	Council Staff:	Dalal Smiley; Karin Linden; Amelia Basset, Cesar Diaz, Dure de Winter
	Other:	Representatives of VEOHRC, Intercultural communities and university
APOLOGIES:		Cr Angela Villella

The Assembly commenced at 6pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Welcome and Open	No disclosures were made
2	Anti- Racism Strategy 2014: progress report	No disclosures were made
3	Say No To Racism project presentation	No disclosures were made
4	Committee structures during 2014: discussion	No disclosures were made
5	Other business	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 8.00pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	César Díaz
	Officer Title:	Multicultural Affairs Officer



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Budget Briefing Session
	Date:	Monday 31 March 2014
	Location:	Conference Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Gaetano Greco (Mayor), Cr Tim Laurence, Cr Vince Fontana, Cr Bo Li, Cr Angela Villella, Trent McCarthy (to 7.20pm) Cr Julie Williams (Deputy Mayor), Cr Oliver Walsh, (from 5.40pm), Steven Tsitas (from 5.45pm).
	Council Staff:	Rasiah Dev, Daniel Freer Paul Crapper, Steve Hamilton, Katrina Knox, Kerrie Jordan, Joann Hennessey, Jacinta Stevens, Jim Barrett (to 6.00pm), Sarah-Jade Chung (to 6.00pm).
	Other:	Peter Lewinsky (to 6.20pm)
APOLOGIES:		Nil

The Assembly commenced at 5.35pm with a recess at 6.35pm. Resumed at 6.45pm
A further recess at 8.05pm. Resumed at 8.15pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Darebin Community Survey 2013 – Annual Summary	No disclosures were made
2	Review of Previous Meeting – Capital Works, Rates and Borrowings	No disclosures were made Cr Walsh absent from 6.02pm to 6.07 and 6.30pm to 6.36pm
3	Fees and Charges	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 8.30pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Katrina Knox
	Officer Title:	Director Community Development



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Transport Advocacy Committee
	Date:	Tuesday 1 April 2014
	Location:	Chambers, Preston Offices
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Bo Li, Cr Angela Villella
	Council Staff:	Nathan Moresi, Che Sutherland, Amanda Tobin
	Other:	Representative of the Darebin Progress Association, and members of the public
APOLOGIES:		Cr Trent McCarthy – has declared a conflict with the content and purpose of this committee as he will be standing in the State election. He will no longer be a part of the committee.

The Assembly commenced at 6:30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Discussion of Transport Advocacy Strategy facilitated by The Civic Group	No disclosures were made
2	Agreement on Transport Advocacy Strategy facilitated by The Civic Group	No disclosures were made

8pm Cr Villella left the meeting

3	Discussion on implementation of Transport Advocacy Strategy facilitated by Council Officers	No disclosures were made
4	Agreement on next steps	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 8.35 pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Che Sutherland
	Officer Title:	Team Leader Transport Strategy



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Environment Reference Group
	Date:	Wednesday 2 April 2014
	Location:	Conference Room, Preston
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Trent McCarthy.
	Council Staff:	Libby Hynes, Gavin Mountjoy, Dalal Smiley and Rebecca Petit.
	Other:	Members of the Darebin Environmental Reference Group
APOLOGIES:		Cr Angela Villella

The Assembly commenced at 7:07 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Welcome and apologies	Cr McCarthy indicated that he will be standing for State Elections later in the year.
2	Minutes and matters arising	No disclosures were made.
3	Darebin Heat Wave Strategies.	No disclosures were made.
4	Sustainable Homes and Communities Leadership Program.	No disclosures were made.
5	Update on Solar \$aver and Solar Bulk Buy programs	No disclosures were made.
6	General issues and project updates	No disclosures were made.
7	Next meeting	No disclosures were made.

The Assembly concluded at 9:12pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Gavin Mountjoy
	Officer Title:	Environmental Strategy Coordinator



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Darebin Disability Advisory Committee
	Date:	Monday 7 April 2014
	Location:	Council Function Room, Preston
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Gaetano Greco (Mayor), Cr Julie Williams, Cr Oliver Walsh
	Council Staff:	Bridget Monro-Hobbs, Karin Linden, Gillian Damonze, Karla Chatfield, Stephanie Preston, Rebecca Feldman and Christine Mulholland.
	Other:	Representative of NMIT, community representatives.
APOLOGIES:		

The Assembly commenced at 11:10am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Present and apologies	No disclosures were made
2	Matters arising from previous minutes	No disclosures were made
3	Standard agenda items - NDIS update - Disability Access and Inclusion Plan update	No disclosures were made Cr Walsh left at 11.25am
4	draft Reservoir Masterplan	No disclosures were made. Cr Walsh re-entered the room at 12:35pm
5	Progress update on new Access and Inclusion Plan	No disclosures were made. Cr Walsh left at 12.45pm and re-entered the room at 12.50pm
6	General Business	No disclosures were made.

The Assembly concluded at 1.00pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Christine Mulholland
	Officer Title:	MetroAccess Officer



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Sports Fees and Charges Temporary Reference Group
	Date:	Monday 7 April 2014
	Location:	Conference Room Preston Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Gaetano Greco (Mayor), Cr Vince Fontana, Cr Bo Li, Cr Oliver Walsh, Cr Tim Laurence
	Council Staff:	Daniel Freer, David Shepard, Rosie Thomas, Jess Fraser, Chris Meulblok
	Other:	
APOLOGIES:		Cr Angela Villella, Cr Trent McCarthy, Cr Julie Williams, Cr Steven Tsitas, Rasiah Dev,

The Assembly commenced at 5pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Appointment of Chair	No disclosures were made Cr Greco nominated
2	Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Policy elements • Financial impacts on Council and clubs • Communication process • Discussion 	No disclosures were made. Cr Walsh arrived at 5.15pm Cr Walsh left the meeting at 5.35pm and returned at 5.55pm
3	Next steps	Council briefing paper 28 April

The Assembly concluded at 6.00pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	David Shepard
	Officer Title:	Manager Leisure and Public Realm

8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

8.1 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 9 MONTHS ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

MINUTE NO. 224

AUTHOR: Financial Accountant

REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate & Planning Services

SUMMARY:

A comprehensive financial review has been undertaken for the nine months ended 31 March 2014 to assess the financial performance of Council year-to-date. The outcome of the review indicates that Council has achieved a year-to-date operating surplus of \$32.0 million, which is \$3.9 million ahead of budget and capital works expenditure of \$18.2 million, which is \$7.8 million behind the budget.

CONSULTATION:

Managers and Co-ordinators

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the contents of the “Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2014” included as **Appendix A** to this report be received and noted.

MOTION

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

THAT the contents of the “Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2014” included as **Appendix A** to this report be received and noted.

Cr. McCarthy proposed to the mover (Cr. Li) that the following point be added. This was accepted by Cr. Li.

- (2) Council receive a further report on how Council can ensure that its financial investments are held with institutions and funds that are most consistent with Councils social, economic and environmental policies. The report should also outline how this aspect of Councils investments can be publicly reported on.

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDED MOTION

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

THAT:

- (1) The contents of the "Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2014" included as **Appendix A** to this report be received and noted.
- (2) Council receive a further report on how Council can ensure that its financial investments are held with institutions and funds that are most consistent with Councils social, economic and environmental policies. The report should also outline how this aspect of Councils investments can be publicly reported on.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT:

- (1) The contents of the "Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2014" included as **Appendix A** to this report be received and noted.
- (2) Council receive a further report on how Council can ensure that its financial investments are held with institutions and funds that are most consistent with Councils social, economic and environmental policies. The report should also outline how this aspect of Councils investments can be publicly reported on.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

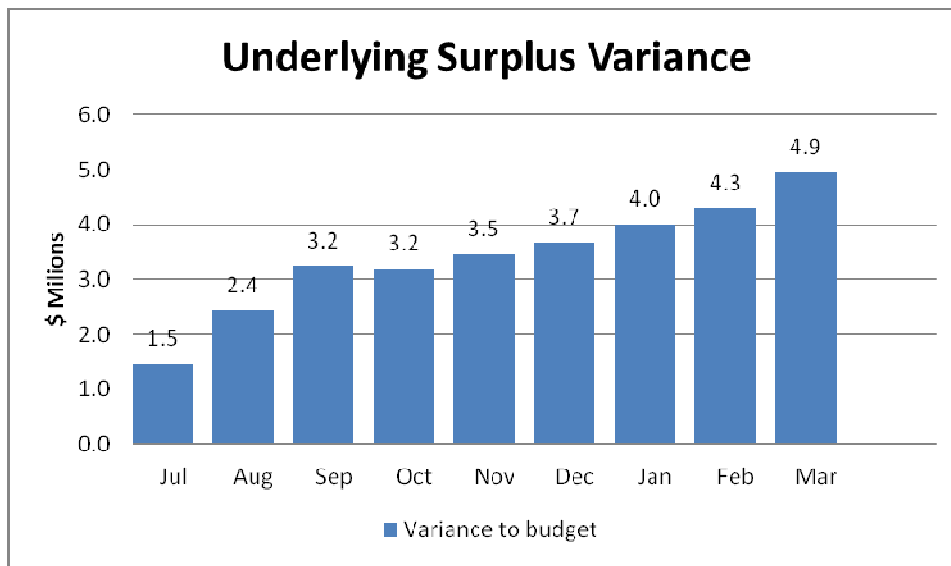
Under the Local Government Act 1989, at least every three months the Chief Executive Officer is required to present to the Council a statement comparing the budgeted with the actual revenues and expenses for the financial year to date. In complying with the Act, the attached report (**Appendix A**) compares the actual and budgeted operating revenues and expenses and the actual and budgeted capital revenues and expenses for the nine months ended 31 March 2014. It also compares the actual and budgeted movements in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement for that period.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Operating Performance

For the nine months ended 31 March 2014 Council has recorded an operating surplus before capital revenue and other items of \$26.5 million, which is \$3.9 million ahead of the year to date budget. After capital and other items, the operating surplus is \$32.0 million, which is \$3.9 million ahead of budget. The main items contributing to this favourable variance are development contributions, other revenue, employee costs, maintenance expenditure and other expenditure partly offset by unfavourable variances in user fees and capital grants and contributions.

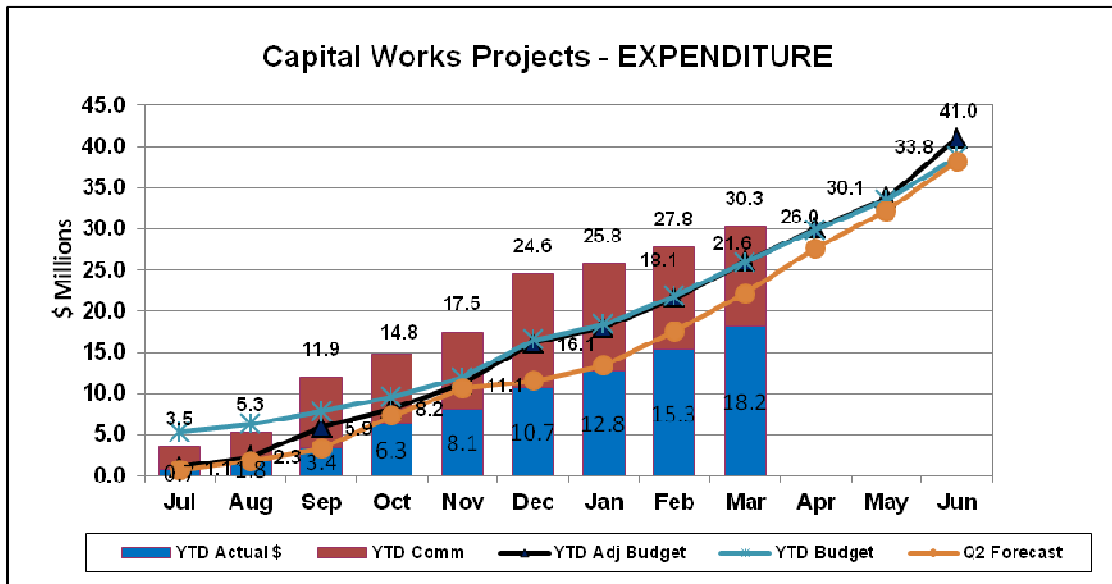
The year to date underlying surplus was \$4.9 million ahead of budget. The underlying result is the net surplus for the year adjusted for capital grants and contributions and timing differences on grants received and spent.



Capital Performance

For the nine months ended 31 March 2014 Council has expended \$18.2 million on the capital works program, which is \$7.8 million behind the year to date budget. The variance is due mainly to delays with building works, open space projects and the purchase of plant and equipment. As at 31 March 2014 a further \$12.1 million has been committed by way of issued purchase orders. Commitments are not reflected in the reported capital expenditure and indicate that many projects are well advanced.

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Forecast
% of budget expended	63%	44%	94%
% of budget expended and committed	63%	74%	94%



Financial Position

The Financial Position as at 31 March 2014 shows a cash and investment balance of \$42.3 million which is \$10.2 million ahead of budget. The variance is due mainly to the higher opening cash and investment position compared with budget. The net current asset position is \$54.2 million which is \$18.4 million more than budget. The net asset position of \$1.17 billion is \$7.6 million greater than budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Nil

Economic Development

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

The Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2014 shows that Council's year-to-date operating result is a surplus of \$32.0 million and \$18.2 million has been expended on capital works.

FUTURE ACTIONS

A further financial report will be presented to Council for the ten months ending 30 April 2014.

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

- Financial Report for nine months ended 31 March 2014 (**Appendix A**)

Cr. Walsh temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 7.33 pm and returned at 7.34 pm.

8.2 PLANNING COMMITTEE CHARTER**MINUTE NO. 225****AUTHOR: Manager City Development****REVIEWED BY: Director Planning and Corporate Services****SUMMARY:**

This report responds to a General Business Item seeking a report on reviewing options for the consideration of planning applications that are assessed as non-compliant with the planning scheme. The report responds to the question of whether these decisions should be made by the Planning Committee or under delegation.

In considering the report a review of the instrument of delegation under the *Planning and Environment Act (1987)* has been undertaken including the charter for the Planning Committee. Taking all things into consideration and the need for Council to demonstrate consideration of the broader public interest this report concludes that some minor refinements should be made to the Planning Committee Charter and instrument of delegation. These changes would allow for all decisions in relation to restrictive covenants to be made under delegation and for applications with 5 or more objections to continue to be decided on by the Planning Committee irrespective of the recommendation.

CONSULTATION:

- Maddocks
- Governance
- Statutory Planning Coordinators

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy****SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh****THAT** Council resolve to amend the Planning Committee Charter as follows:

- (1) Clause 5 (1) (a) is modified to read:
 - (a) 'Planning applications which receive five (5) or more objections¹ with the exception of an application to remove or vary a restrictive covenant where at least one beneficiary has objected.'
- (2) Clause 5 (1) (b) Planning applications which fail to meet the objectives of adopted Council policy, is deleted
- (3) Clause 5 (1) (e) Minor amendments to Development Plans which in the opinion of the Director Corporate and Planning Services in consultation with the Chairperson of the Planning Committee, can be determined by the Committee is modified to read: 'Development plans'

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 3 February 2014, Council resolved:

“That Council officers report back to the next Council meeting with options to allow the amendment of current Council delegations relating to planning assessments to allow Council planning officers to make decisions of refusal under delegation, where such assessments reflect local Darebin planning policy, without the need to refer these decisions of refusals to the Planning Committee of the Council”.

The current instrument of delegation enables officers to make decisions on applications where there are 4 or less objections. This includes refusals, the issue of planning permits and notices of decision to grant a planning permit. All applications where there are 5 or more objections are required to be reported to the planning committee for a decision.

In 2013 there were just under 1,700 planning permit applications and amendments to permits processed and of these 73 (4.3%) were reported to the Planning Committee for decision. Of the 73 planning applications considered in 2013 by the Planning Committee 14 were recommended for refusal by officers with 3 of these including decisions on restrictive covenants. On every occasion the officer recommendation for refusal of the application was supported by the Committee.

The vast majority of planning applications that are refused are refused under delegation and often these applications are of a poor standard and in all cases fail to satisfy previous requests for further information. These types of applications typically have many issues of non-compliance with the planning scheme and are often refused without public notice provided.

This process is followed to avoid the inefficient use of resources on poor applications and as an incentive to achieve better application performance should a new application be submitted. It also avoids engaging and agitating the community on proposals that have little or no merit.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

It is understood the intention of the Council resolution of 3 February 2014 is seeking to remove the need for the Planning Committee to consider applications that officers recommend for refusal. Whilst this may result in the reduction of matters brought before the Planning Committee for decision, it removes the ability to provide a more open forum of decision making on matters of strong public interest. Arguably this serves as an added accountability test for the decisions made by officers through providing the opportunity for the proponent to directly present an argument in favour of their application before the committee.

The other challenge with many of the Planning Committee decisions that ultimately go before VCAT for decision is the fact that plans are often amended in the lead up to a VCAT hearing. This usually happens once professional advice is sought and applied to strengthen the application against the grounds of refusal by Council.

Given the Planning Committee charter weighs into planning decisions on the basis of levels of public interest, the Planning Committee may want to continue to review amended plans that may in the opinion of officers sufficiently respond to the grounds of refusal. The fact that this regularly occurs may complicate a process where all decisions to refuse planning applications are dealt with under delegation. It is considered best that the Planning Committee maintain some continuity with these applications.

Restrictive Covenants

Conversely the Planning Committee does deal with a number of refusal considerations that are routine in nature. This arises where there are applications to remove or vary a covenant where there may be 5 or more objections which includes at least one objection from a beneficiary. In accordance with Section 60 (2) of the *Planning and Environment Act, (1987)* Council must refuse an application to vary or remove a covenant where there is an objection from a beneficiary. Because of the strict requirements applied by the *Planning and Environment Act, (1987)* the consideration of contested applications to remove covenants is a routine administrative task.

The Planning Committee Charter

In considering this report a review of the Planning Committee Charter ('the Charter') has been undertaken including a review of the Charter by Council's Solicitor. It is clear that any modifications to allow for an increase in refusal decisions under delegation will require an amendment to the Charter.

The review has also identified an anomaly with the Charter and potential contradiction with the instrument of delegation. A copy of the current Planning Committee Charter is attached as **Appendix A** to this report. Reference is made toward Clause 5 (1) (b) which reads "*Planning applications which fail to meet the objectives of adopted Council Policy*". The Planning Scheme is an adopted policy of Council and a strict interpretation of this clause suggests all refusal decisions should be made by the Planning Committee. Clearly this is not the intention and this anomaly should be addressed and the suggestion put forward in this report is that this clause should be simply deleted.

Clause 5 (1) (c) picks up the intention of this clause by ensuring applications which raise major policy implications are referred to the Planning Committee for decision. This picks up matters such as where preferred height limits in the planning scheme might be exceeded by a planning application proposal.

The Planning Committee Charter also enables a general 'call up' option for Chair of the Planning Committee to refer to the Committee for a decision. This might include a significant planning application which under the planning scheme may be exempt from the notification process and be of considerable interest to the community.

The Charter also allows the Planning Committee to consider only minor amendments to Development Plans under Clause 5 (1) (e). Given the Planning Committee includes membership of all Councillors it might be worth considering providing full delegation to the Planning Committee on all Development Plan matters. This would offer the benefit of members of the public and the proponents being able to make verbal submissions to the Planning Committee prior to a decision being made. Again this adds to the level of openness and transparency of Council's decision making processes.

To change or vary the decisions required to be made by the Planning Committee relating to the recommended refusal planning applications requires changes to be made to Clause 5 (1) (a) of the Charter. Given the issue raised in relation to public interest and the probable submission of amended plans at VCAT, officers would suggest that this be amended to exclude decisions on restrictive covenants only.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

This report relates to decision making processes and has no environmental implications.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

This report fully considers levels of participation in the planning process and identifies ways in which residents can continue to be heard in relation to important planning decisions

Economic Development

This report relates to decision making processes and has minimal economic impacts, including the impact of the timing of planning decisions on development.

Other

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are negligible impacts.

CONCLUSION

After reviewing how decisions are referred to the Planning Committee, it is clear that decisions are referred primarily on the underlying basis of public interest and to remove items where the officer is recommending refusal to be decided under delegation seems to act against criteria for the more contentious planning applications. Conversely, the refusal of restrictive covenants where beneficiaries object are clear candidates for processing under delegation.

There is however a need identified to revise the Planning Committee charter to clear up some anomalies and to allow greater clarity on what the Committee considers and for it to take on a greater role in considering development plans.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Nil

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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 Author of the Briefing Paper, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this briefing paper.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Planning Committee Charter (**Appendix A**)
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- Darebin Planning Scheme

8.3 DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON COUNCILS WEBSITE**MINUTE NO. 226****AUTHOR: Manager Corporate Governance and Performance****REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Planning Services****SUMMARY:**

At its ordinary meeting on 17 February 2014, Council resolved:

That Council receive a report in March 2014 outlining how and when the following documents that are currently available for inspection during office hours at the Darebin Civic Centre can also be made readily accessible or more easily locatable via the Council website:

- *Details of current allowances fixed for the Mayor and Councillors under section 74 or 74A of the Act.*
- *The total annual remuneration for all senior officers in respect of the current financial year and the previous financial year.*
- *Details of overseas or interstate travel (with the exception of interstate travel by land for less than three days) undertaken in an official capacity by Councillors or any members of Council staff in the previous 12 months.*
- *Names of Council officers who were required to submit a return of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted.*
- *Names of Councillors who submitted returns of interest during the financial year and the dates the returns were submitted.*
- *Agendas for, and minutes of, ordinary and special meetings of Council held in the previous 12 months, except if the minutes relate to parts of meetings that had been closed to members of the public.*
- *A list of special committees established by Council and the purpose for which each committee was established.*
- *A list of special committees that were abolished or ceased to function during the financial year.*
- *Minutes of meetings of special committees held in the previous 12 months, except if the minutes relate to parts of meetings that have been closed to members of the public.*
- *A register of delegations kept under sections 87 and 98 of the Act, including the dates on which the last reviews took place.*
- *Submissions received in accordance with section 223 of the Act during the previous 12 months.*
- *Agreements to establish regional libraries under section 196 of the Act.*
- *Details of all property, finance and operating leases involving land, buildings, plant, computer equipment or vehicles entered into by the Council as lessor or lessee, including the name of the other party to the lease and the terms and value of the lease.*

- *A register of authorised Officers appointed under section 224 of the Act.*
- *A list of donations and grants made by the Council during the financial year, including the names of persons or bodies that have received them and the amount of each donation or grant.*
- *A list of the names of the organisations of which the Council was a member during the financial year and details of all membership fees and other amounts and services provided during the year to each organisation by the Council.*
- *A list of contracts valued at \$150,000 or more for purchasing goods and services, or contracts valued at \$200,000 or more for carrying out works that the Council entered into during the financial year without first engaging in a competitive process and that are not contracts referred to in section 186(5) of the Act.*
- *A record of Assemblies of Councillors held during the previous 12 months.*
- *General Local Law 2005, General (Amendment) Local Law 2006 and Governance Local Law 2013.*
- *The program for applying Best Value principles, together with any quality or cost standards adopted by the Council.*
- *The Council Plan, Strategic Resource Plan, Council Budget and Annual Report.*
- *The Councillor Code of Conduct.*
- *The Councillor Support and Expenses Policy.*
- *Election campaign donation returns by candidates at the previous Council election.*
- *The Council's Procurement Policy*
- *Planning Application and associated documents for which public notice has been given.*

CONSULTATION:

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- (1) Note the changes to the 'Documents Available for Public Inspection' attached as **Appendix A** which includes direct hyperlinks to specific documents currently on Council's website.
- (2) Note the reasons for documents being made available on Council's website or by inspection only as outlined in **Appendix B**.
- (3) Note that a review of all documents on the website and their location will be undertaken as part of the redevelopment of the website.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT Council defer the report to June 2014 and seek advice from Local Government Victoria regarding what information can be made available on Councils website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Section 222 of the *Local Government Act* 1998 provides that a Council must ensure that a prescribed document is available for inspection at all reasonable times. Further, section 11 of the *Local Government (General) Regulations* 2004 provides for a range of documents containing prescribed matters to be available for inspection.

At its ordinary meeting on 17 February 2014, Council resolved to receive a report in March 2014 outlining how and when documents that are currently available for inspection during office hours at the Darebin Civic Centre can also be made readily accessible or more easily locatable via the Council website.

The City of Darebin complies with the required legislation by including the list of documents available for public inspection (see **Appendix A**) on the Darebin website. This list can be found by clicking through the following path on the website:

- Documents, Permits and Forms – Documents – Documents Available for Public Inspection

Attached at **Appendix B** to this report is the list of documents identified in the Council resolution, along with details as to which documents are currently on the website and an explanation as to why certain documents can only be viewed by inspection. Documents that are not on the website, but are still available for inspection by arrangement with the Manager Corporate Governance and Performance, tend to mostly be those that include personal information of individuals.

It should be noted that over the last 2 years, there have only been 2 requests from residents to inspect documents that are not available on the website.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

While many of Council's key governance documents are already available on the Darebin City Council website, a new section called 'How Council works' is being created to house them together in one place, and to expand the range of information available to residents about Council's policies and procedures. This is an interim solution, as the issue of transparency is a key consideration of the upcoming website redevelopment to ensure that governance information is easy for residents to find within the new site's information architecture.

As an interim measure, the list of 'Documents Available for Public Inspection' (see **Appendix A**) will be updated to include direct hyperlinks to those documents that are currently available on the website, rather than referring to the website generally and having to search for it.

A review of the websites across a number of different Councils including Brimbank, Moonee Valley, Wyndham, Baw Baw and Banyule indicates that the majority of Victorian Councils have the same arrangements as Darebin.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Nil

Economic Development

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council note the contents of this report and note the changes to the 'Documents Available for Public Inspection' attached as **Appendix A**.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Make the updated 'Documents Available for Public Inspection' available on Councils website.

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 Meeting Minutes – 17 February 2014
- Documents Available for Public Inspection (**Appendix A**)
- Analysis of documents on website (**Appendix B**)

Darren Rudd, Manager City Development left the meeting at the conclusion of the above item – 7.45 pm

8.4 COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT CASE STUDIES

MINUTE NO. 227

AUTHOR: Manager Corporate Governance and Performance

REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Planning Services

SUMMARY:

At its meeting held on 2 December 2013, Council resolved that:

“(2) Officers report back to Council after developing case studies on the Councillor Code of Conduct to allow the community to understand the Code of Conduct and that these case studies be placed on Council’s website.”

CONSULTATION

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note that the *Councillor Code of Conduct* Case Studies attached as **Appendix A** to this report will be published on the Darebin website.

MOTION**MOVED:** Cr. A. Villella**SECONDED:** Cr. O. Walsh**THAT:**

- (1) Council note that the *Councillor Code of Conduct* Case Studies attached as **Appendix A** to this report will be published on the Darebin website.
- (2) The name of the Councillor in Scenario 1 in Appendix A be changed to Councillor Brown and delete the word comrade.

Cr. Laurence proposed to the mover (Cr. Villella) and the seconder (Cr. Walsh) that point (2) be amended as follows. This was accepted by Cr. Villella and Cr. Walsh.

- (2) The name of the Councillor in Scenario 1 in Appendix A be changed to Councillor Brown and replace the word comrade with colleague.

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED: Cr. A. Vilella
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

THAT:

- (1) Council note that the *Councillor Code of Conduct* Case Studies attached as **Appendix A** to this report will be published on the Darebin website.
- (2) The name of the Councillor in Scenario 1 in Appendix A be changed to Councillor Brown and replace the word comrade with colleague.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. A. Vilella
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

THAT:

- (1) Council note that the *Councillor Code of Conduct* Case Studies attached as **Appendix A** to this report will be published on the Darebin website.
- (2) The name of the Councillor in Scenario 1 in Appendix A be changed to Councillor Brown and replace the word comrade with colleague.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on 2 December 2013, Council resolved that:

“(2) Officers report back to Council after developing case studies on the Councillor Code of Conduct to allow the community to understand the Code of Conduct and that these case studies be placed on Council’s website.”

The Councillor Code of Conduct 2013 sets out the underlying principles that Councillors agree to abide by to ensure that they are acting in the best interests of the people in the municipality and to discharge their responsibilities to the best of their skill and judgment.

Councillors agree to the following Councillor Conduct Principles specified in sections 76B and 76BA of the *Local Government Act* 1989 (the Act):

- Act with integrity;
- Impartially exercise their responsibilities in the interests of the local community; and
- Not improperly seek to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.

Councillors also agree to:

- Avoid conflicts between their public duties as Councillors and their personal interests and obligations;
- Act honestly and avoid statements (whether oral or in writing) or actions that will or are likely to mislead or deceive a person;
- Treat all persons with respect and have due regard to the opinions, beliefs, rights and responsibilities of other Councillors, council officers and other persons;
- Exercise reasonable care and diligence and submit themselves to the lawful scrutiny that is appropriate to their office;
- Endeavour to ensure that public resources are used prudently and solely in the public interest;
- Act lawfully and in accordance with the trust placed in us as elected representatives; and
- Support and promote these principles by leadership and example and act in a way that secures and preserves public confidence in the office of Councillor.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

To allow the community to better understand the types of actions which may constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct and how Councillors should behave in different situations a number of scenarios have been prepared and are attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

The scenarios have been taken from the Online Governance Training program developed by Minter Ellison, endorsed by the MAV and run by SafeTrac and will be made available on the Darebin web page that hosts the Councillor Code of Conduct.

Given the vast range of potential scenarios that could arise, further relevant examples/scenarios will be published on the web from time to time as required.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Nil

Economic Development

Nil

Other

The case studies are in accordance with the *Local Government Act* 1989 and the Councillor Code of Conduct.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no finance or resource implications associated with the case studies being put onto the Councils website.

CONCLUSION

To enable the community to better understand the Councillor Code of Conduct it is recommended that Council note that the Code of Conduct Case Studies attached as **Appendix A** to this report will be published on the Darebin website

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Case Studies will be included on Councils website

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 Meeting minutes – 2 December 2013
- Councillor Code of Conduct 2013

Cr. Greco declared an 'interest' in the following item as he is an employee of the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and is currently on leave without pay.

8.5 GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK – COUNCILLORS INTERESTS

MINUTE NO. 228

AUTHOR: Manager Corporate Governance and Performance

REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Planning Services

SUMMARY:

At its ordinary meeting on 18 November 2013, Council resolved:

'That Council officers report back to the next Council meeting on 2 December 2013 on how Council can further strengthen our local governance framework to include the public reporting of Councillors interest in relation to uncles, aunties, cousins, nieces and nephews in planning and other Council matters to ensure the perception of impartiality of the Council is protected.

The report should identify if the higher level of family relationship disclosure can be incorporated into our code of conduct and governance charter and consider other relevant examples like the Australian Tax Office.'

A report was thus presented at its ordinary meeting held on 3 February 2014 at which time Council resolved:

'That Council note the advice received and outlined within this report and refer the potential change to the Local Governance Framework to the next Councillor Briefing session.'

CONSULTATION:

- Chief Executive
- Maddocks Lawyers

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT Council adopt the *Councillor Conflicts of Interest (Family Members) Guidelines* as attached at **Appendix A**.

CARRIED

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Section 77A of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) provides that Councillors must declare direct and indirect interests in particular matters. Section 81 of the Act also provides the circumstances under which Councillors, members of special committees or nominated officers must submit primary returns and the types of information that must be disclosed.

Advice was sought from Maddocks Lawyers (Maddocks) to ascertain if amending the Code of Conduct to include a broader range of relatives to be declared would result in the Code being inconsistent with the Act, given that the proposed amendments included a broader range of relatives which are outside the legislative provisions of the Act.

A report was thus presented to Council on 3 February 2014 at which time Council resolved:

'That Council note the advice received and outlined within this report and refer the potential change to the Local Governance Framework to the next Councillor Briefing session.'

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Further advice was sought from Maddocks who undertook additional research as to the requirements imposed on Commonwealth and State Government employees, in particular employees of the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Maddocks have advised that the ATO applies a formal 'Integrity Framework' policy which is stated as being intended to ensure that the ATO is:

...seen to be delivering our commitments though acting with integrity....demonstrating high personal standards and professionalism, including honesty, objectivity and high standards of propriety and probity in the stewardship of public funds and the management of the Tax Office.

The ATO policy does not deal directly with conflict of interest in any detail, nor does it define the term 'family member' for the purposes of conflict of interest. The ATO policy does require, among other things, compliance with the Australian Public Service (APS) Code of Conduct which requires APS employees to disclose and take reasonable steps to avoid any conflict of interest, whether real or apparent, in connection with their employment.

According to the APS document 'In whose interests?: Preventing and managing conflicts of interest in the APS':

An 'interest' in this context means anything that can have an impact on an individual or group. The term 'private interests' includes not only an employee's own personal, professional or business interests, but also the person, professional or business interests of individuals or groups with whom they are closely associated. This can include relatives, friends or even rivals and enemies.

The concept of 'closely associated' is therefore significantly broader than that used in section 78 of the Act. The terms are not, however, defined in either the APS Code or the above guideline.

Maddocks further advise that the absence of any clear definitions of these terms does not prevent Council amending the Framework and adopting its own definitions for that purpose.

There are some limitations as to the nature of the provisions to be included in the Framework which arise primarily because the Framework is a policy document only and, while it might represent what Council sees as 'best practice', it is not binding on Council or its Councillors. So, while the Framework can identify some 'higher level' of disclosure as being desirable, any failure on the part of a Councillor to comply with it will not be actionable.

Maddocks indicated that any proposed amendment to the Framework should avoid the use of mandatory language and provided some suggested wording for such an amendment which has been included in the *Councillor Conflicts of Interest (Family Members) Guidelines (Appendix A)*.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Nil

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopt the *Councillor Conflicts of Interest (Family Members) Guidelines* as attached at **Appendix A** to this report as a Darebin City Council specific guideline.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Nil

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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 Author of the Briefing Paper, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this briefing paper.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Meeting Minutes – 18 November 2013 and 3 February 2014
- Local Governance Framework
- Governance Local Law
- Councillor Conflicts of Interest (Family Members) Guidelines (**Appendix A**)

Cr. Walsh temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item – 7.59 pm

8.6 BUNDOORA PARK PRECINCT MASTER PLAN ADOPTION**MINUTE NO. 229****AUTHOR: Manager Leisure and Public Realm****REVIEWED BY: Director Culture, Leisure and Works****SUMMARY:**

In September 2012 Council endorsed the draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan for the purpose of public consultation. Consultation was undertaken in a variety of ways and the feedback considered in revising the document.

Feedback received through the consultation process and the response to it is detailed in **Appendix A**. The draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan, **Appendix B**, is now ready for adoption by Council.

The draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan identifies a vision for the precinct and associated actions including advocacy to other levels of government. Implementation of the master plan will lead to enhanced facilities with greater usage by and engagement with the community.

CONSULTATION:

- Manager Leisure and Public Realm
- Manager Parks and Vegetation
- Manager Environment & Natural Resources
- Manager Bundoora Homestead Art Centre
- Manager Arts, Culture and Venues
- Coordinator Public Realm
- Coordinator Coopers Settlement
- Acting Manager Bundoora Park
- Leisure Planning and Development Officer
- Principal Strategic Planner
- Urban Designer
- Aboriginal Affairs Officer
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Parks Victoria
- Latrobe University
- Tenants at Bundoora Park
- Community consultation
- Park users
- Wurrunjeri Council
- Koorie Land Council
- Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT Council:

- (1) Adopt the Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan as at **Appendix B** to this report
- (2) Consider funding projects within the Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan through the annual capital works process.
- (3) Advocate to the State Government for future funding to be allocated for the improvement of the Bundoora Park Precinct.

CARRIED

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

In September 2012 Council endorsed the draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan for the purpose of public consultation. Consultation was undertaken in a variety of ways including a stakeholder meeting, customer surveys, meeting with the Wurrunjeri Council and advertising on websites and on site. The feedback has been considered in revising the document.

Bundoora Park Precinct is Darebin's largest parcel of public open space supporting a variety of activities including an 18-hole golf course, series of play spaces, heritage village, historic home, contemporary art gallery, urban farm, walking tracks, wildlife reserve, open space and a natural bushland area. The State Government of Victoria owns Bundoora Park (as crown land) with Darebin City Council acting as the delegated Committee of Management.

The diversity of activities available at Bundoora Park Precinct creates unique public parkland providing Darebin's residents and visitors with a variety of services and opportunities. The precinct's activities are managed by several teams within Council. This style of management has led to a lack of cohesion and missed opportunities for collaboration within the Precinct.

The existing Bundoora Park Master Plan sundowned in 1998. Consequently, a new master plan has been developed to build on the successes of the past while creating a sustainable Bundoora Park precinct for the future. Creating a cohesive vision and action plan will help Council and Darebin residents get the most out of Bundoora Park precinct's range of activities while allowing Darebin City Council to maximise value for money with capital and operational spending. The draft Master Plan has now been through a consultation process and is ready to be considered for adoption by Council.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The current park

Bundoora Park precinct currently offers attractions that are highly valued by the community in the four main areas of environment, recreation, education and arts/culture. This mix of functions is unique within one park precinct in Victoria and includes the following:

Environment

- Some of the oldest River Red gum stands in Melbourne;
- Grassy Woodlands with remnant indigenous grasslands, wildflower flora and woodland trees;
- One of the largest natural landscapes and park environments in the northern region;
- Wetlands; and
- Wildlife Reserve featuring kangaroos and emus in their natural environment.

Recreation

- Top quality Public Golf Course;
- Regional All Abilities Play Space;
- Coopers Settlement – Farming, Agriculture and the Environment;
- Farmers Market;
- Recreational space for picnics, bbqs, championship cross country, cycling, exercise, dog training, playgrounds, community events;
- Mt Cooper Lookout – one of the highest points in Metropolitan Melbourne with views of the Melbourne CBD; and
- Bundoora Park Cricket Oval and Pavilion

Education

- All Abilities Playspace, natural environment and open space that offer creative learning through play, activity and recreation;
- Quality programs focusing on environmental sustainability:
 - Land Management
 - Water Management
 - Waste Management
 - Energy
- Farming and Agriculture – programs about:
 - Linking farming to the urban community
 - Food Security
 - Introduction to animals
 - Sustainable Farming
- Arts and Culture
 - Public education programs, floor talks, workshops and events on the visual arts.

- Bundoora Homestead Art Centre - the public art gallery for the City of Darebin and a building listed with Heritage Victoria and The National Trust;
- A professional venue for the presentation of contemporary visual arts and public programs that hosts curated visual art exhibitions and has a community access gallery; and
- Public art within the park.

Community and external stakeholder consultation, customer surveys and the recorded number of visitors suggest that all of the precinct including the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre, Coopers Settlement, the park's open space and the park's Golf Course, are highly valued by the public and that there is an ongoing need and demand. Beyond this the park plays a key role as part of Council's open space network providing environmental and amenity benefits.

Vision for the Future

The key objectives of the master plan are to make the precinct well known, make it easy to get to and around and to make it worth visiting. The draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan vision is based on the Council plan vision and is simply: Bundoora Park: The place to visit.

Draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan

The draft Master Plan has identified key actions for the future of the Precinct under the following headings.

- Communication and coordination
- Permeability and circulation
- Experience

The draft Master Plan underwent broad community and stakeholder consultation to test the objectives, vision and actions that were identified. The consultation included:

- an overview on Council's website and the Bundoora Park website, in customer service centres and in each Bundoora Precinct facility as an introduction and invitation to consider the master plan;
- an advertisement in local newspapers inviting submissions;
- copies of the master plan provided to and dialogue with Koorie Land Council, Wurrunjari Council, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Parks Victoria, Latrobe University and Department of Sustainability and Environment; and
- a deliberation session at Coopers Settlement with stakeholders including all tenants within the Precinct, La Trobe University, Springthorpe Estate, representatives of the Bundoora Homestead Advisory Committee and members of the former Friends of Bundoora Park group.

The feedback received and the response to it is shown at **Appendix A**.

Priority actions

Based on the feedback received the following actions have been identified as the first priorities for the implementation of the master plan:

- Undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study

- Establish an internal Bundoora Precinct Coordination group responsible for the delivery of the Plan.
- Develop inter-related business plans for each facility/service within the precinct
- Coordinate branding across the precinct

A submission has been made to Council's capital works budget process for funding for these actions.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan embraces many aspects of environmental sustainability. These include:

- Contributing to the protection and improvement of Darebin's biodiversity, natural environment and wildlife corridors;
- Providing information and education resources regarding sustainable environment and sustainable agriculture and fostering awareness and better practices in the community;
- Monitoring land management, water management, waste management, building and office practices and food production; and
- Ways to reduce energy use, greenhouse gas emissions water consumption and waste generation.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan looks to provide an attraction with a range of structured and unstructured facilities that considers and celebrates, among others:

- The needs of people with a disability including all associated access needs;
- The cultural diversity of Darebin; and
- Families including a range of age groups, and encouraging interaction and participation.

The provision of a range of free and user pays activities and proximity to public transport ensures that the Precinct is available to all to benefit from the range of recreational, educational, environmental and cultural experiences on offer.

Economic Development

The draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan has initiatives that will result in the improvement of the commercial operations on the various activities in the area. These could lead to further job creation as visitation to the activities increases.

Other

The draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan fits within other Council strategies:

- Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020 commits to appropriate infrastructure planning and management models for Darebin's major Leisure facilities;

- Darebin Open Space Strategy 2007 - 2017 recommends a Master Plan review for Bundoora Park to guide the future planning and development of this important regional open space; and
- Cycling Strategy – proposes linkages to and through Bundoora Park.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The majority of funding for the improvements identified within the master plan will be considered through Council's Capital Works Budget process in future financial years. Some government grants will be available to seek funding from and it may be possible to attract some commercial contributions. Given that the State Government owns Bundoora Park and its status as a regional park there should be further advocacy to obtain capital and operational grants to assist in the ongoing development and maintenance of the precinct.

A number of actions have been identified to increase the revenue of the precinct to reduce Council's operating expenditure.

CONCLUSION

The draft Bundoora Park Precinct Master Plan provides an exciting vision for the future for the Bundoora Park precinct. The recommended actions will create a resource for Darebin that offers the community an improved and increased range of attractions that will be highly valued and used. Extensive consultation has been completed and the master plan is now ready for Council's adoption.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Consideration of funding through Council's capital works process
- Commence action on the identified initiatives
- Advocate to the State Government for funding of improvement works

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 Director authorising 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

- Bundoora Park Master Plan (1998)
- Bundoora Park Flora and Fauna Management Plan
- Aboriginal Pre-Contact Archaeology Report
- Cycling Strategy
- Darebin Leisure Strategy 2010-2020
- Bundoora Master Plan Feedback (**Appendix A**)
- Bundoora Park Precinct Future Directions Master Plan (**Appendix B**)

Cr. Walsh returned to the meeting during discussion of the above item – 8.00 pm.

8.7 LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER**MINUTE NO. 230****AUTHOR: Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance****REVIEWED BY: Director Assets and Business Services****SUMMARY:**

At its meeting on 3 February 2014, Council resolved that:

“Council considers commissioning a feasibility study/business case to set up a local animal shelter, possibly in partnership with neighbouring councils and rescue organisations, as part of the 2014/2015 Council budget.”

Entertaining the possibility of having a local shelter located within Darebin or in a neighbouring municipality may be a more effective way to manage the lost and abandoned animals within the Municipality as there is the potential for an increased local approach that involves volunteers and creating local jobs. A local animal shelter may also assist Council to further reduce the euthanasia rates for unwanted and stray cats and dogs and achieve the targets outlined in the DAM Plan.

A feasibility study/business case of this nature is complex and outside the skill and experience level of Council officers. For this assessment to be undertaken a consultant will need to be engaged. As the cost of such a report cannot be met through current budget a new initiative bid (2014/2015) has been submitted to undertake the study.

CONSULTATION:

- Coordinator Health and Urban Protection
- Manager Assets and Properties
- Manager Major Projects, Engineering and Transport

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council:

- (1) Refer the cost of \$10,000 to engage a consultant to undertake a feasibility study/business case to set up a local animal shelter to the 2014/2015 budget process for consideration.
- (2) Note there is a possibility of partnering with neighbouring councils and rescue organisations via a memorandum of understanding to work collaboratively in exploring a shared local animal shelter.
- (3) Note, pending budget approval, a further report detailing the findings of the feasibility study/business case and the results of any potential partnerships.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. J. Williams

THAT Council:

- (1) Refer the cost of \$10,000 to engage a consultant to undertake a feasibility study/business case to set up a local animal shelter to the 2014/2015 budget process for consideration.
- (2) Note there is a possibility of partnering with neighbouring councils and rescue organisations via a memorandum of understanding to work collaboratively in exploring a shared local animal shelter. The Mayor will write to Mayors and Councillors of neighbouring municipalities regarding Darebin's interest in establishing a local 'No Kill' shelter and invite them to participate and invest in the proposed study.
- (3) Note, pending budget approval, a further report detailing the findings of the feasibility study/business case and the results of any potential partnerships.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Council's activities in relation to animal management are legislated through the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, relevant regulations and code of practices. The purpose of the Act is to promote animal welfare, responsible ownership of animals and to protect the environment.

The requirements under the Act include collection and impound services of dogs, cats and other animals; respective release or disposal of animals; registration, promotion of responsible pet ownership and public education. Council has no animal pound facilities and all pound services, seized animals and afterhours animal collections are required to be undertaken by a third party contractor. The existing service providers are located outside of the Municipality.

The Lost Dogs Home has come under scrutiny from several rescue groups who believe that their euthanasia rates for cats and dogs are too high and want Council to take a leadership role and establish a local pound preferably located within Darebin or in a neighbouring municipality and have it operated using the Getting to Zero Model (more than 90% of all incoming stray and surrendered cats and dogs) where the local community and municipality can achieve zero euthanasia of all healthy and treatable cats and dogs.

Council has a day stay animal holding facility which is used to contain animals before being transported to a registered Domestic Animal Business – Pound Shelter. The day stay holding facility is located at Councils Depot in Carawa drive. This facility has recently been renovated and new dog (X6) and cat kennels (X12) have been installed. The cats are now held within the compound instead of outside. A new sink, hand basin and storage facilities have also been provided for staff use. This facility can now house dogs and cats temporarily (1-3 days) provided that there is provision for food, water, onsite veterinarian care, and officers for general cleaning and washing of kennels.

Council also has in place local strategies and laws to regulate the management of animals and this is achieved through the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017 (the Plan). The Plan focuses on increasing pet registration, promoting responsible pet ownership and increasing the reclaim and rehoming rates of impounded dogs. It aims to reduce the number of unwanted or abandoned animals in the community in order to reduce euthanasia rates of dogs and cats.

Pets are increasingly kept for companionship both in families and sole person households and there are a wide range of known benefits to owning a pet. Council recognises these benefits and promotes responsible pet ownership in Darebin.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The concept of a local animal shelter shows vision and leadership by Council for Darebin lost animals, residents, animal welfare groups and rescue organisations. Entertaining the possibility of having a local shelter located within Darebin or in a neighbouring municipality may be a more effective way to manage the lost and abandoned animals within the Municipality as there is the potential for an increased local approach that involves volunteers and creating local jobs.

A local animal shelter may also assist Council to further reduce the euthanasia rates for unwanted and stray cats and dogs and achieve the targets outlined in the DAM Plan.

A feasibility study/business case of this nature is complex and outside the skill and experience level of Council officers. For this assessment to be undertaken a consultant will need to be engaged. As the cost of such a report cannot be met through current budget a new initiative bid (2014/2015) has been submitted to undertake the study.

To undertake a comprehensive assessment of location, type, size, functionality, costing and identify best practice in the operation of animal pound services, a feasibility study would involve research into animal management practices adopted in other municipalities within Victoria, including the City of Stonington and Greater Geelong and overseas. A feasibility study would consist of the following specialist knowledge into the following:

- An indication of the level of demand for the facility from within Darebin and adjoining municipalities
- Indication of the appropriate scale of the facility having regard to demand identified both from within Darebin and from neighbouring municipalities
- Indicative site requirements, including town planning considerations
- Management/governance/service delivery options and considerations
- An indication of the level of interest in a new local shelter
- A preliminary assessment of the availability of suitable sites and cost of land and building value
- Identification of potential revenue streams
- Overall costs and revenue assessment.

The cost to have a feasibility study/business case is expected to be \$10,000.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The environment and the protection of wildlife is a strong consideration in the implementation of Domestic Animals Management Plan 2013-2014 as well as the Council Order under the *Domestic Animals Act* 1994.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Darebin's Equity and Inclusion Planning Tool (EIPAT) was used to guide the consultation process for the development of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013-2017.

Economic Development

This initiative could see a number of employment opportunities for both Whittlesea and Darebin and may involve the employment of a number of rescue group members and provide opportunities for both councils to share services thereby reducing the running costs of both animal management and control services for each council.

Other

Council provides animal management services to fulfil its legislative requirements under the Act and local strategies. There are also a number of shared goals in the Council Plan which support the strategic direction of Councils animal management services.

Healthy and Connected Community

- Protect and enhance biodiversity, natural and cultural heritage assets, wildlife corridors, local forests, waterways and the built and natural heritage areas.
- Develop policies to encourage the ethical treatment of all animals and to support responsible pet ownership.

Open and Accountable Democracy

- Identify issues of concern to our community and advocate for strategic solutions.
- Work with organisations, other levels of government and the private sector for the benefit of our community.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The cost to prepare a feasibility study is \$10,000 and a bid has been submitted for consideration through the 2014/2015 budget process.

CONCLUSION

Council on 3 February 2014 resolved that Council considers commissioning a feasibility study to set up a local animal shelter, possibly in partnership with neighbouring councils and animal rescue organisations as part of the 2014/2015 budget process.

A feasibility study/business case of this nature is complex and outside the skill and experience level of Council officers. For this assessment to be undertaken a consultant will need to be engaged. As the cost of such a report cannot be met through current budget a new initiative bid (2014/2015) has been submitted to undertake the study. The cost to prepare a feasibility study is \$10,000 and a bid has been submitted for consideration through the 2014/2015 budget process.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- A memorandum of understanding to be developed between Darebin and interested neighbouring Council's to work collaboratively to explore any possibilities of a shared local animal shelter.
- Council to approve memorandum of understanding.
- Council to receive further report detailing the findings of the feasibility study/business case and the results of any potential partnerships.

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

- *Domestic Animals Act* 1994
- Domestic Animal Management Plan 2013/2017
- Code of Practice for the Operations of Shelters and Pounds, June 2011
- Council Meeting Minutes – 3 February 2014

It was proposed by Cr. Tsitas to move items 8.8, 8.9, 8.10, 8.11 and 8.12 'en bloc'. Cr. Laurence suggested changing the items to 8.9, 8.10, 8.11 and 8.12 which was accepted by Cr. Tsitas.

8.8 PROPOSED VEHICLE CROSSING POLICY

MINUTE NO. 231

AUTHOR: Acting Manager Major Projects Engineering and Transport

REVIEWED BY: Director Assets and Business Services

SUMMARY:

The proposed Vehicle Crossing Policy is aimed at guiding the way in which new crossings are managed in Darebin. The purpose of the document is to state Council's policy to the community and provide a concise administrative framework for Council.

CONSULTATION:

- Statutory Planning
- City Development
- Strategic Planning
- Building Services
- Parks and Vegetation
- Assets and Properties
- Infrastructure Maintenance and Support
- Local Laws
- Public Realm
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Infrastructure Maintenance and Support
- Capital Works

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the proposed Vehicle Crossing Policy attached as **Appendix A** to this report to enable the consistent and efficient assessment of future vehicle crossing applications across all departments of Council.

MOTION

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

THAT Council defer this item.

Cr. Villella proposed to the mover (Cr. Laurence) and the seconder (Cr. Tsitas) that the Motion read as follows: This was accepted by Cr. Laurence and Cr. Tsitas.

That Council defer this item to a Council meeting in June 2014 and for prior consideration at a Councillor Briefing session.

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDED MOTION

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

THAT Council defer this item to a Council meeting in June 2014 and for prior consideration at a Councillor Briefing session.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council defer this item to a Council meeting in June 2014 and for prior consideration at a Councillor Briefing session.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

At the 20 July 2009 Council Meeting a General Business Item was raised requesting that a Vehicle Crossover Policy be developed to review the long term direction in managing the placement of crossovers in the municipality. The Vehicle Crossing Policy (**Appendix A**) has therefore been developed to consolidate existing principles and guidelines relating to vehicle crossing management, and to address issues associated with the proliferation of new vehicle crossings.

The policy sets out the Key Decision Guidelines, the Underpinning Principles, the Business Unit Actions and the Appeals Process.

Although there are a number of existing strategy and policy documents that provide guidance on the management of vehicle crossings (see Related Documents), there is no consolidated and consistent Vehicle Crossing Policy available to all areas of Council.

The relevant Council departments have requested a consolidated policy be developed to address the issue of consistency in the assessment of vehicle crossing permit applications. Furthermore, internal consultation with relevant Council departments indicates that there is an overwhelming level of support for this document.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Operational Issues

The lack of status for the guidelines has resulted in difficulties for planners in applying the guidelines. Formally endorsing the Vehicle Crossing Policy would help to strengthen the use of the decision guidelines.

The Policy guidelines for the installation of new vehicle crossings are as follows:

- Guideline 1. New vehicle crossings must result in a net gain in the parking supply;
- Guideline 2. No more than one single-width vehicle crossing should be provided for each dwelling fronting a street (Planning Scheme Clause 55.03-9);
- Guideline 3. Relocation of an existing vehicle access point should not result in loss of additional on-street car parking;
- Guideline 4. Vehicle access must be provided from a rear laneway if available and suitable (Darebin Urban Character Policy – General Requirement)
- Guideline 5. Vehicle crossing placement must minimise impacts to existing Council assets including on-street car parking; and
- Guideline 6. New vehicle crossings and the associated car parks accessed by the crossing must meet the necessary planning and design requirements.

Whilst vehicle access between private property and the roadway is important and potentially essential, the approval and specifications of crossings has been based on the following key principles:

- Principle 1. **protection of public assets** (i.e. on-street parking supply and trees),
- Principle 2. **preserving road safety** (for all road users inclusive of pedestrians and cyclists),
- Principle 3. **preserving urban amenity** (i.e. existing trees and landscaping), and
- Principle 4. **protecting environmental sustainability** (through minimising hard surfaces and promoting water sensitive urban design).

The proposed Vehicle Crossing Policy consolidates the existing guidelines and underlying principles in a concise document that references all relevant Council policies, strategies and studies. It will enable Officers across all areas of Council to effectively and efficiently assess new vehicle crossing applications.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The Vehicle Crossing Policy considers and consolidates the relevant Council environment sustainability policies and standards (i.e. GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy, Neighbourhood Character Study, and the Tree Retention Policy).

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There are no social inclusion and diversity issues.

Economic Development

There are no economic development implications.

Other

There are no other issues.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The policy will enable Officers across all areas of Council to effectively and efficiently assess new vehicle crossing applications; this will lead to cost savings through better use of Council staff time.

CONCLUSION

The proposed Vehicle Crossing Policy consolidates the existing guidelines and underlying principles in a concise document that references all the relevant Council policies, strategies and studies. The policy will enable Officers across all areas of Council to effectively and efficiently assess new vehicle crossing applications.

FUTURE ACTIONS

A communication strategy will be implemented to promote awareness of the Policy, both internal and external to the organisation.

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

- Vehicle Crossing Policy (**Appendix A**)
- Darebin Planning Scheme
- Tree Retention Policy
- GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy
- Darebin Transport Strategy
- Darebin Safe Travel Strategy
- Darebin Heritage Study
- Darebin Neighbourhood Character Study
- Australian/New Zealand Standard - Parking Facilities Part 1: Off-street car parking (AS/NZS 2890.1:2004)

ADOPTION OF NOTICES OF MOTION 'EN BLOC'

MINUTE NO: 232

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT Council agree to consider the adoption of the 'Recommendations' contained in Report Item Nos. 8.9, 8.10, 8.11 and 8.12 'en bloc'.

CARRIED

Cr. McCarthy declared an 'interest' in item 8.10 (Proposed right-of-way (road) discontinuance rear of 76 to 80 Northernhay Street, Reservoir) as his property is in the vicinity.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT the 'Recommendations' contained at Item Nos. 8.9, 8.10, 8.11 and 8.12 be adopted 'en bloc'.

CARRIED

**8.9 PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROAD) DISCONTINUANCE
REAR OF 76 TO 80 NORTHERNHAY STREET, RESERVOIR****MINUTE NO. 233****AUTHOR: Manager Assets and Property****DIRECTOR: Director Corporate and Business Services****SUMMARY:**

This report recommends that Council commence the statutory procedures for the discontinuance and sale of the 3.66m wide right-of-way (road) at the rear of 76 to 80 Northernhay Street, Reservoir.

CONSULTATION:

- Macquarie Local Government Lawyers
- Owners of adjoining properties
- Statutory Authorities
- Council Departments

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

- (1) Commence the statutory procedures under section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 1989 ("the Act") to discontinue the road at the rear of 76 to 80 Northernhay Street, Reservoir, shown hatched on **Appendix A**.
- (2) Give public notice under Sections 207A and 82A and 223 of the Act of the proposed discontinuance in the appropriate newspapers and on Council's website and such notice state that if discontinued, Council proposes to sell the land from the road.

**CARRIED
REFER MINUTE NO. 232****REPORT****INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Council received an application from the owner of 80 Northernhay Street, Reservoir, for the discontinuance and sale of the 3.66m wide road at the rear of that property.

Council officers commenced investigations and commissioned Macquarie Lawyers to undertake the process to facilitate the possible discontinuance and sale of the section of right of way (road) at the rear of 76 to 80 Northernhay Street, Reservoir as shown **Appendices A and B**. The road is not listed on Council's Register of Public Roads.

A site inspection confirmed that the section of road at the rear of 78 and 80 Northernhay Street is enclosed within the adjoining properties.

The section of road at the rear of 76 Northernhay Street has been constructed in concrete and is used exclusively by the owner for access to a garage located at the rear of the property.

The remainder of the road at the rear of 58 to 74 Northernhay Street is open and used for access and is not proposed to be discontinued and sold at this juncture.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Consultation with owners/purchase price

All of the adjoining owners have been consulted regarding the proposal with none of the adjoining property owners expressing any objection to the proposed discontinuance of the road.

Preliminary negotiations have been conducted with the owners of 76 to 80 Northernhay Street regarding the acquisition of the land, as shown in **Appendix C**. All three owners have agreed to acquire the land from the road at current market value, as well as each meeting a share of the reasonable costs associated with Council discontinuing the road.

Service Authorities and Council departments

Council and all necessary Service Authorities have been consulted in respect to the proposal and no objections have been received.

Yarra Valley Water Corporation has a sewer within the land and will require an easement to be saved over the land if the road is discontinued. Similarly Council has a drain within the land and will also require an easement to be saved over the land if the road is discontinued.

Melbourne Water has a large 1875mm wide drain in its land to the north of the road (the Reservoir Complex in High Street). The drain is in close proximity to the road and Melbourne Water requires an easement to be saved over the land to protect the drain.

Implementation

The statutory procedures require Council to give public notice of its intention to close and sell the road and invite submissions. Submitters may request to be heard by Council prior to a decision being made to proceed or otherwise with the proposal.

In addition, all abutting property owners would be advised of the proposal in writing and informed of their right to make a submission.

Following which, a report would be presented to Council for a decision whether to discontinue the road, part of the road or not to discontinue the road.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There are no factors in this report which impact upon environmental sustainability.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Initial consultation has been undertaken with the adjoining owners. The statutory procedures will extend this by giving public notice of the proposal and providing the opportunity to make formal submissions to Council regarding the proposal.

Economic Development

There are no factors in this report which impact upon economic development

Other

This report has been prepared having regard to Council's Right of way and road closure policy.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

CONCLUSION

All initial consultation has indicated support for the proposal.

It is considered that the section of road adjoining the rear of 76 to 80 Northernhay Street, Reservoir, is no longer reasonably required as a road for public use. On this basis, it would be practicable for Council to commence the statutory procedures to potentially discontinue the Road and sell the land to the adjoining owners.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Arrange for the statutory procedures for the discontinuance and sale of the section of road to be undertaken pursuant to the provisions of section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 and section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

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

- **Appendix A** showing the section of road proposed to be discontinued and sold.
- **Appendix B** being an overall plan of the area.
- **Appendix C** title plan
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- Council's Right-of-Way and Road Closure Policy

Cr. McCarthy declared an 'interest' in the following item as his property is in the vicinity.

**8.10 PROPOSED RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROAD) DISCONTINUANCE
REAR 80A OAKOVER ROAD AND 2 DUDLEY STREET,
PRESTON**

MINUTE NO. 234

AUTHOR: Manager Assets and Property

REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Business Services

SUMMARY:

This report recommends that Council commence the statutory procedures for the discontinuance and sale of the right-of-way (road) adjoining 2 Dudley Street and 80A Oakover Road, Preston.

CONSULTATION:

- Macquarie Local Government Lawyers
- Owners of adjoining properties
- Statutory Authorities
- Council Departments

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas

SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT Council

- (1) Commence the statutory procedures under section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 to the Local Government Act 1989 ("the Act") to discontinue the road at the rear of 80A Oakover Road and 2 Dudley Street, shown on **Appendix A**.
- (2) Give public notice under Sections 207A and 82A and 223 of the Act of the proposed discontinuance in the appropriate newspapers and on Council's website and such notice state that if discontinued, Council proposes to sell the land from the road.

**CARRIED
REFER MINUTE NO. 232**

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Council received an application from the owner of 2 Dudley Street, Preston, for the discontinuance and sale of the road adjoining the rear of that property.

Council officers commenced investigations and commissioned Maddocks Lawyers to undertake the process to facilitate the possible discontinuance and sale of the section of right of way (road) at the rear of 80A Oakover Road and 2 Dudley Street, Preston, shown on **Appendices A and B**. The road is not listed on Council's Register of Public Roads and is not constructed.

A site inspection confirmed the section proposed to be discontinued is fenced off and currently enclosed within the rear of 80A Oakover Road. This property owner has not expressed any interest in acquiring the land.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Consultation with Adjoining Property Owners

All of the adjoining owners have been consulted regarding the proposal. None of the owners have expressed any objection to the proposed discontinuance of the road.

Council have reached an 'in-principle' agreement with the owner of 2 Dudley Street, subject to the statutory process and Council resolution, to purchase the land plus meet the costs associated with the proposal.

Service Authorities and Council departments

Council and all necessary Service Authorities have been consulted in respect to the proposal and no objections have been received.

Yarra Valley Water Corporation advised they have assets in the road and will require an easement to be saved over the land if the road is discontinued.

Implementation

The statutory procedures require Council to give public notice of its intention to close and sell the road and invite submissions. Submitters may request to be heard by Council prior to a decision being made to proceed or otherwise with the proposal.

In addition, all abutting property owners would be advised of the proposal in writing and informed of their right to make a submission.

Following which, a report would be presented to Council for a decision whether to discontinue the road, part of the road or not to discontinue the road.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There are no factors in this report which impact upon environmental sustainability.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Initial consultation has been undertaken with the adjoining owners. The statutory procedures will extend this to the whole of the community by giving public notice of the proposal and providing the opportunity to make formal submissions to Council regarding the proposal.

Economic Development

There are no factors in this report which impact upon economic development.

Other

This report has been prepared having regard to Council's "Right of Way and Road Closure Policy".

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or resource implications as a result of the recommendations contained in this report.

CONCLUSION

All initial consultation has indicated support for the proposal.

It is considered that the section of road adjoining the rear of 80A Oakover Road and 2 Dudley Street, Reservoir, is no longer reasonably required as a road for public use. On this basis, it would be practicable for Council to commence the statutory procedures to potentially discontinue the Road and sell the land to the adjoining owners.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Arrange for the statutory procedures for the discontinuance and sale of the section of road to be undertaken pursuant to the provisions of section 206 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 and section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

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

- **Appendix A** title plan showing the section of road proposed to be discontinued and sold.
- **Appendix B** being an overall plan of the area.
- *Local Government Act 1989*
- *Road Management Act 2004*
- Council's Right-of-Way and Road Closure Policy

8.11 **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE A SPECIAL RATE
LEVY RENEWAL FOR FAIRFIELD VILLAGE BUSINESS
DISTRICT**

MINUTE NO. 235

AUTHOR: **Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance**

REVIEWED BY: **Director Assets and Business Services**

SUMMARY

This report sets out the process for the renewal of the Fairfield Village Business District Special Rate Scheme 2014-2019 and seeks Council's endorsement of this process.

- A Special Rate for the Fairfield Village Business District has been in place since 1999. The current Special Rate Scheme expires on 30 June 2014.
- The Special Rate will assist in delivering the 2012–2015 Business Development and Employment Strategy's objective to 'Strengthen the unique characteristics of Darebin's Activity Centres'.
- This report proposes that Council give notice of Intention to Declare a Special Rate for the Fairfield Village Business District (Copy of Notice as provided in **Appendix A**). The report also proposes to seek submissions from owners and traders liable to pay the proposed Special Rate for the purposes of marketing, promotion and development of the Fairfield Village Business District.

CONSULTATION

- Fairfield Village Traders Association
- Fairfield Village business owners and occupiers

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: **Cr. S. Tsitas**

SECONDED: **Cr. B. Li**

THAT Council:

- 1) Notes the proposed declaration notice, the proposed calculated amounts and assessment numbers, the map of proposed Fairfield Village Business District Special Rate Levy and survey responses from the occupiers of the properties included in the Fairfield Village Traders Association proposing the reintroduction of the Special Rate for the Fairfield Village Business District (***District***) (refer to **Appendices A, B, C and D**).
- 2) Commences the statutory process under the *Local Government Act* 1989 (***Act***) to reintroduce a Special Rate to and for the properties within the defined Precinct.

- 3) Directs that public notice be given in “*The Northcote Leader*” and “*The Preston Leader*” newspapers of the intention of Council to declare at its ordinary meeting to be held on 7 July 2014 in accordance with the proposed declaration of Special Rate in the form of the attachment to this resolution (being **Appendix A**) (***Proposed Declaration of Special Rate***).
- 4) Directs that, in accordance with section 163(1C) of the Act, separate letters enclosing a copy of the public notice are to be sent to the owners and the occupiers of the properties referred to and set out in the listing of rateable properties set out in **Appendix B** to the Proposed Declaration of Special Rate, advising of the intention of Council to declare the Special Rate at its ordinary meeting to be held on 7 July 2014.
- 5) Advises the Fairfield Village Traders Association of the matters specified in this resolution.
- 6) Notes that a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting has been scheduled for 11 June 2014 to hear any person, who in their written submissions under Section 223 of the Act have requested that they be heard in support of their submissions.
- 7) Authorises the Director Assets and Business Services:
 - (a) To carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 163A and section 163(1A), (1B) and (1C) and sections 163B and 223 of the Act; and
 - (b) To prepare a funding agreement between Council and the Fairfield Village Traders Association to formalise the administrative operations of the Special Rate.
- 8) Directs that the agreement specified in paragraph 7(b) of this resolution is to be subsequently submitted to Council for approval and sealing before the proceeds of the Special Rate, or any part of them, are paid to the Fairfield Village Traders Association.

CARRIED
REFER MINUTE NO. 232

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Fairfield Village Traders Association has written to Council on 27 March 2014 to request that Council renew the Special Rate for the Fairfield Village Business District. This will in effect continue on from the current Special Rate which ceases on 30 June 2014. The new scheme is proposed to run for five years from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2019 with a proposed budget of \$55,000 in the first year of the Special Rate, with the annual CPI increase for each of the subsequent years after the first year.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The success of local shopping centres such as the Fairfield Village Business District is extremely important to the local community. A vibrant, active and successful shopping centre can provide the following benefits to the community:

- Local employment
- Diversity of businesses
- Space for community to socialise and shop
- Meeting places
- Expressions of various cultures
- Entertainment
- Social inclusion.

The vision in the *Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015* seeks to have a positive and connected business environment with a dynamic and diverse economy that has sustainable growth and operations and generates local employment. It is also a priority of Council to 'Strengthen the unique characteristics of Darebin's Activity Centres'. In order to achieve this objective this shopping strip needs to be successful and hence remain commercially viable.

Since 1999, the Fairfield Village Business District has had a Special Rate Scheme in place for the properties used for retail and commercial purposes within the Centre. The area to be included within the Special Rate is attached in a map as **Appendix C**.

The scheme was introduced originally in 1999 and has been re-introduced every five years. The final year of the current scheme is expected to raise around \$50,000.

The funds raised by the Fairfield Village Business District Special Rate have been used by the Fairfield Village Traders Association over the last five years for:

- Promotional and marketing events
- Promotional advertising, marketing and public relations material
- Centre management, including employment of a Centre Co-ordinator
- Centre décor and displays
- Works to enhance the appearance and amenity of the Centre in addition to those provided generally by Council
- Incidental costs related to the above including expenses related to the declaration and levying of the Rate.

The Association has proposed a budget increase to \$55,000 for its programs in the first year of the Special Rate, with annual CPI increases for each of the subsequent years after the first year.

The Fairfield Village Traders Association believes the fixed amount will provide the necessary funding to sustain a pro-active marketing approach and promotional campaign to assist the Fairfield Village Business District to remain competitive.

The viability of the Fairfield Village Business District as one of Darebin's Major Activity Centres with a mix use of retail and professional services will be dependent on its ability to be represented as a cohesive management group of traders, allowing them to unite in effectively responding to external threats or opportunities so to protect their investment in the Darebin community.

The Fairfield Village Traders Association wishes to remain self-sufficient and to have the ability to provide a cohesive, holistic approach to marketing, promotion and to provide services to the centre over and above Council's standard services.

It has been practice with all Council's Special Rate and Charge Schemes for 100% of the money raised by the scheme to be paid directly to the trader association's elected account, over four instalments throughout the year. The relevant association spends the funds as specified in the Special Rate Declaration and in accordance with an agreement between them and Council which calls for submission of annual budgets, regular financial reporting and audited annual financial statements. Council in undertaking the Special Rate provides over \$15,000.00 in-kind contribution towards the benefit of the Centre, which is not recovered from the Association.

Council has consulted extensively with the Fairfield Village Traders Association and has forwarded a survey to every trader (total of 120) involved in the proposal. Council received a total of 34 responses which indicated that:

- 56% of respondents would support the renewal of the Special Rate
- 88% felt that it was moderately to very important for the centre to be marketed as a whole
- 70% felt that the Fairfield Village Traders Association was moderately to very effective.

The main concern expressed by business was in regards to the cost of rates currently being charged and how the money collected from the special rate was currently being spent. A summary of the survey results is attached as **Appendix D**.

Copies of the surveys will be forwarded to the Fairfield Village Traders Association to assist in the preparation of their five year business plan.

Council will continue to work with the Fairfield Village Traders Association to assist in the effective delivery of promotional activities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Nil

Economic Development

The vision of the *Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015* adopted in March 2012 is to have a positive and connected business environment with a dynamic and diverse economy that has sustainable growth and operations and generates local employment. To achieve this vision, shopping centres like Fairfield Village Business District need to be successful and remain commercially viable.

Other

Nil

Council Plan

The vision of the *Council Plan 2013-2017* encompasses several areas including 'Vibrant City and Innovative Economy' which aims to build and promote an innovative and thriving economy. It also encourages businesses and retailers to diversify to maximise opportunities for further business expansion to ensure their viability and business sustainability.

Legislative

The *Local Government Act 1989* requires that Council must determine a number of matters when considering declaring a new Special Rate. These include:

(a) The total cost of the Special Rate

The total cost of implementing this Rate would include:

- The annual amount which the Fairfield Village Traders Association has budgeted to spend on various marketing, promotional and other activities; and
- Council's own administrative costs in relation to the scheme.

With regard to the Fairfield Village Traders Association's programs, as stated above, it has budgeted to spend \$55,000 in the first year of the scheme and requests that this amount rise each subsequent year in line with CPI increases, for the remainder of the Special Rate.

(b) The total amount of the Special Rate to be levied

In addition to the total cost of the scheme, Council must then determine the maximum amount that is able to be levied on liable property owners. Once this amount is set, Council cannot levy any amount greater than this figure.

The Act provides that Council must calculate the above amount in accordance with the following formula:

$$R \times C = S$$

R is the total 'benefit ratio' which is the percentage of the total cost that Council determines is able to be levied. It takes into account whether there are properties Council believes will derive a 'special benefit' and are to be levied, and others which also receive such a benefit but which are not to be levied (such as non-commercial community facilities).

Council must also determine if there is a clear, direct and tangible 'community benefit' provided by the Scheme that cannot be charged to the shops and must be attributed to, and paid for, by Council.

C is the total cost of the Scheme.

S is the maximum amount that can be levied.

With regard to the 'benefit ratio', it is considered that all the properties shown on the map and detailed in the list annexed to the attached proposed declaration, will receive a special benefit through increased economic activity. There are no rateable properties identified within this area which should not be levied the rate. Also, it is considered that there are no separate 'community benefits' that can be measured which might accrue from the existence of the Special Rate Scheme.

Any benefits to people visiting the businesses in the Centre will accrue to the businesses themselves. Therefore, the total maximum amount that can be levied on liable property owners would be 100% of the total cost of the scheme.

It has been practice in previous schemes for Council to not recover its administrative costs from liable properties, and to only levy those costs incurred by the Association. It is proposed that this practice continue for the new scheme. It needs to be emphasised that Council's contribution (around \$15,000.00 annually) in providing its own resources towards the benefit of the Centre (which could otherwise be recouped from benefiting properties) is not inconsiderable and is highlighted for the record.

(c) The criteria to be used as the basis for declaring the Special Rate

Council needs to specify the methodology it will use in determining how the payment of the charge is to be apportioned amongst the benefiting properties.

For the period of the Scheme, it is proposed that the Special Rate will be assessed as follows:

- Properties enjoying a "primary" special benefit (as shown below) - will be subject to a special rate of 0.00061083 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value of the property.

Property	Property Classification
68-154 Station Street (inclusive)	Primary
75-157 Station Street (inclusive)	Primary

- Properties enjoying a "secondary" special benefit (as shown below) - will be the subject of a special rate of 0.00045812 cents in the dollar of the Capital Improved Value of the property.

Property	Property Classification
5-29 Railway Place (inclusive)	Secondary
256-294 Wingrove Street (inclusive)	Secondary
68-154 Station Street (second floor) (inclusive)	Secondary
75-157 Station Street (second floor) (inclusive)	Secondary

Statutory Process

The Act requires Council to give public notice of a proposed declaration of the Special Rate and write to all people who will be liable to contribute. The proposed Declaration for this Special Rate has been prepared in accordance with the Act.

Owners (or occupiers who would pay the rate as a condition of their lease) may object to the proposal within 28 days. Recent changes to the Act now stipulate that, if objections are received from more than fifty per cent of persons liable, Council will be prevented from making the declaration and the scheme cannot proceed.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's contribution in providing resources for the set up and administration of a new Special Rate is estimated to be \$15,000. This amount will not be recovered from the Fairfield Village Traders Association. It will be absorbed in Council's Business Development operational budget.

CONCLUSION

The proposed renewal to the Special Rate provides a sound financial basis for the Fairfield Village Business District to promote their Centre. The process invites public comment and Council can review the proposed scheme in light of public submissions.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- In accordance with Section 163(1), (1A), (1B) and (1C), and Section 163B(3) of the *Local Government Act* 1989 ('the Act'), give public notice in the 'Northcote Leader' newspaper pending Council's endorsement of this recommended form of communication to the local businesses, notifying of its intention to make a declaration of a Special Rate from the 1 July 2014.
- That Council allow 32 days to receive submissions, which is longer than the prescribed 28 days.
- That a Special Hearing Committee meeting of Council comprising all Darebin Councillors be held to hear any submissions lodged.
- Any persons who wish to be heard in support of their submissions will be heard at a Special Hearing Committee of Council at Darebin Council Chambers, Preston at 7:00pm on 11 June 2014 if required.
- A further report submitted to Council outlining all submissions or objections. Council will then resolve to either declare or abandon the Special Rate.
- If the Special Rate is adopted, affected persons then have a period of 30 days to lodge an objection with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- Authorise the necessary execution of the financial agreement and five year business plan documents when presented to Council.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Local Government Act 1989
- Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
- The Macquarie Special Rates and Charges Manual 2012
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Notice of Intention to Declare a Special Rate (**Appendix A**)
- List of rateable properties (**Appendix B**)
- Map of area to be included within the Special Rate (**Appendix C**)
- Summary of survey results (**Appendix D**)

8.12 **NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DECLARE A SPECIAL RATE
LEVY RENEWAL FOR PRESTON CENTRAL BUSINESS
DISTRICT**

MINUTE NO. 236

AUTHOR: **Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance**

REVIEWED BY: **Director Corporate and Business Services**

SUMMARY

This report sets out the process for the renewal of the Preston Central Business District Special Rate Scheme 2014-2019 and seeks Council's endorsement of this process.

- A Special Rate for Preston Central Business District has been in place since 1999. The current Special Rate Scheme expires on 30 June 2014.
- The special rate will assist in delivering the 2012–2015 Business Development and Employment Strategy's objective to 'Strengthen the unique characteristics of Darebin's Activity Centres'.
- This report proposes that Council give notice of its Intention to Declare a Special Rate for Preston Central Business District (Copy of Notice as provided in **Appendix A**). It also seeks submissions from owners and traders liable to pay the proposed Special Rate for the purposes of marketing, promotion and development of the Preston Central Business District.

CONSULTATION

- Preston Business Advisory Committee
- Preston Central business owners and occupiers

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: **Cr. S. Tsitas**

SECONDED: **Cr. B. Li**

THAT Council:

- 1) Notes the proposed declaration notice, the proposed calculated amounts and assessment numbers, the map of proposed Preston Central Business District Special Rate Levy and survey responses from the occupiers of the properties included in the Preston Business Advisory Committee proposing the reintroduction of the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business District (**District**) (refer to **Appendices A, B, C and D**).
- 2) Commences the statutory process under the *Local Government Act* 1989 (**Act**) to reintroduce a Special Rate to and for the properties within the defined Precinct.

- 3) Directs that public notice be given in “*The Northcote Leader*” and “*The Preston Leader*” newspapers of the intention of Council to declare at its ordinary meeting to be held on 7 July 2014 in accordance with the proposed declaration of Special Rate in the form of the attachment to this resolution (being **Appendix A**) (**Proposed Declaration of Special Rate**).
- 4) Directs that separate letters enclosing a copy of the public notice are to be sent to the owners and the occupiers of the properties referred to and set out in the listing of rateable properties set out in **Appendix B** to the Proposed Declaration of Special Rate, advising of the intention of Council to declare the Special Rate at its ordinary meeting to be held on 7 July 2014.
- 5) Advises the Preston Business Advisory Committee of the matters specified in this resolution.
- 6) Notes that a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting has been scheduled for 11 June 2014 to hear any person, who in their written submissions under Section 223 of the Act have requested that they be heard in support of their submissions.
- 7) Authorises the Director Assets and Business Services:
 - (c) To carry out any and all other administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 163A and section 163(1A), (1B) and (1C) and sections 163B and 223 of the Act; and
 - (d) To prepare a funding agreement between Council and the Preston Business Advisory Committee to formalise the administrative operations of the Special Rate.
- 8) Council directs that the agreement specified in paragraph 76(b) of this resolution is to be subsequently submitted to Council for approval and sealing before the proceeds of the Special Rate, or any part of them, are paid to the Preston Business Advisory Committee for the purpose for which the Special Rate has been made.

CARRIED
REFER MINUTE NO. 232

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Preston Business Advisory Committee has written to Council on 22 January 2014 asking that Council renew the Special Rate for the Preston Central Business District. This will provide continuance from the current Special Rate which ceases on 30 June 2014. The new scheme is proposed to run for five years from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2019 with a proposed budget of \$110,000 in the first year of the Special Rate, with the annual CPI increase for each of the subsequent years after the first year.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The success of local shopping centres such as the Preston Central Business District is extremely important to the local community. A vibrant, active and successful shopping centre can provide the following benefits to the community:

- Local employment
- Diversity of businesses
- Space for community to socialise and shop
- Meeting places
- Expressions of various cultures
- Entertainment
- Social inclusion.

The vision in the *Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015* seeks to have a positive and connected business environment with a dynamic and diverse economy that has sustainable growth and operations and generates local employment. It is also a priority of Council to 'Strengthen the unique characteristics of Darebin's Activity Centres'. In order to achieve this objective this shopping strip needs to be successful and remain commercially viable.

Since 1999, the Preston Central Business District has had a Special Rate Scheme in place for the properties used for retail and commercial purposes within the Centre. The area to be included within the Special Rate is attached as **Appendix C**.

The scheme was introduced originally in 1999 and has been re-introduced every five years. The final year of the current scheme is expected to raise around \$110,000.

The funds raised by the Preston Central Business District Special Rate have been used by the Preston Business Advisory Committee over the last five years for:

- Promotional and marketing events
- Promotional advertising, marketing and public relations material
- Centre management, including employment of a Centre Co-ordinator
- Centre décor and displays
- Works to enhance the appearance and amenity of the Centre in addition to those provided generally by Council
- Incidental costs related to the above including expenses related to the declaration and levying of the Rate.

The Association has proposed a budget of \$110,000 for its programs in the first year of the Special Rate, with the annual CPI increases for each of the subsequent years after the first year.

The Preston Business Advisory Committee believes the fixed amount will provide the necessary funding to sustain a pro-active marketing approach and promotional campaign to assist Preston Central Business District to remain competitive.

The viability of the Preston Central Business District as one of Darebin's Principal Activity Centres with a mix use of retail and professional services will be dependent on its ability to be represented as a cohesive management group of traders. This will allow them to unite in effectively responding to external threats or opportunities so to protect their investment in the Darebin community.

The Preston Business Advisory Committee wishes to remain self-sufficient and to have the ability to provide a cohesive, holistic approach to marketing, promotion and to provide services to the centre over and above Council's standard services.

It has been practice with all Council's Special Rate schemes for 100% of the money raised by the scheme to be paid directly to the trader association's elected account, over four instalments throughout the year. The relevant association spends the funds as specified in the Special Rate Declaration and in accordance with an agreement between them and Council which calls for submission of annual budgets, regular financial reporting and audited annual financial statements. Council in undertaking the Special Rate provides over \$25,000.00 in-kind contribution towards the benefit of the Centre, which is not recovered from the Association.

The Preston Business Advisory Committee is the representative body of retail and other businesses and community representatives in the Preston Central Business District.

Council has consulted with the Preston Business Advisory Committee and the Preston Market Management and has forwarded a survey to every business (total of 221) involved in the proposal. Council received a total of 44 responses which indicated that:

- 59% of respondents would support the renewal of the Special Rate
- 90% felt that it was moderately to very important to have Preston Central promoted as a local centre
- 77% felt that Preston Business Advisory Committee was moderately to very effective.

The main concern raised by traders was in relation to the effectiveness of how the money collected by the scheme is spent. A summary of the survey results is attached as **Appendix D**.

Copies of the surveys will be forwarded to the Preston Business Advisory Committee to assist in the preparation of their five year business plan.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Nil

Economic Development

The vision of the *Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015* is to have a positive and connected business environment with a dynamic and diverse economy that has sustainable growth and operations and generates local employment. To achieve this vision, shopping centres like Preston Central Business District need to be successful, remain commercially viable and sustainable.

Other

Nil

Council Plan

The vision of the *Council Plan 2013-2017* encompasses several areas including 'Vibrant City and Innovative Economy' which aims to build and promote an innovative and thriving economy. It also encourages businesses and retailers to diversify to maximise opportunities for further business expansion to ensure their sustainability.

Legislative

The Local Government Act 1989 requires that Council must determine a number of matters when considering declaring a new Special Rate or Special Rate Renewal. These include:

(a) The total cost of the Special Rate

The total cost of implementing this Rate would include:

- The annual amount which the Preston Business Advisory Committee has budgeted to spend on various marketing, promotional and other activities; and
- Council's own administrative costs in relation to the Scheme.

With regard to the Preston Central programs, as stated above it has budgeted to spend \$110,000 in the first year of the scheme and requests that this amount rise each subsequent year in line with CPI increases, for the remainder of the scheme.

(b) The total amount of the Special Rate to be levied

In addition to the total cost of the scheme, Council must then decide the maximum amount that is able to be levied on liable property owners. Once this amount is set, Council cannot levy any amount greater than this figure.

The Act provides that Council must calculate the above amount in accordance with the following formula:

$$R \times C = S$$

R is the 'benefit ratio' which is the percentage of the total cost that Council determines is able to be levied. It takes into account whether there are properties Council believes will derive a 'special benefit' and are to be levied, and others which also receive such a benefit but which aren't to be levied (such as non-commercial community facilities).

Council must also determine if there is a clear, direct and tangible 'community benefit' provided by the scheme that cannot be rated to the shops. This must be attributed to, and paid for, by Council.

The community benefit **C** has been assessed and equates to zero.

C is the 'community benefit ratio' which is calculated in circumstances where Council considers that the services and activities to be provided from the proceeds of the Special Rate, all being for the purpose of marketing, management and development of the Centre, will only benefit the commercial properties (all of which are rateable land) included in the Scheme area.

S is the maximum amount that can be levied.

With regard to the 'benefit ratio', it is considered that all the commercially zoned properties shown on the map and detailed in the list annexed to the attached proposed declaration, will receive a special benefit through increased economic activity. There are no rateable properties identified within this area which should not be levied in the Rate renewal. Also, it is considered that there are no separate 'community benefits' that can be measured which might accrue from the existence of the scheme. Any benefits to people visiting the businesses in the Centre will accrue to the businesses themselves. Therefore, the total maximum amount that can be levied on liable property owners would be 100% of the total cost of the scheme.

It has however been practice in previous schemes for Council to not recover its administrative costs from liable properties, and to only levy those costs incurred by the Association. It is proposed that this practice continue for the new scheme. It needs to be emphasised that Council's contribution (around \$25,000 annually) in providing its own resources towards the benefit of the Centre (which could otherwise be recouped from benefiting properties) is not inconsiderable and is highlighted for the record.

(c) The criteria to be used as the basis for declaring the Special Rate

For the first year of the proposed Special Rate, each Rateable property included in the Special Rate is to pay the amount as specified in **Appendix A** calculated on the respective property's Capital Improved Value with a rate of 0.00048189 applied.

The manner in which the Special Rate is assessed (that is, the criteria to be used as the basis for levying the Special Rate) is: For the first year and subsequent years of the Special Rate – each commercially zoned property included in the Special Rate is to pay the amount calculated in **Appendix A** of the respective property's Capital Improved Value at the following rateable properties:

- 317-509 High Street, Preston (inclusive)
- 274-444 High Street, Preston (inclusive)
- 241A-251 Murray Road, Preston (inclusive)
- 1-26 Cramer Street, Preston (inclusive).
- 25 Preston Street, Preston (inclusive)
- 14-32 The Centreway, Preston (inclusive)
- 1-12 The Strand, Preston (inclusive)
- 1 Cook Street, Preston (inclusive)
- 19-29 Mary Street, Preston (inclusive)
- 267-275 Gower Street, Preston (inclusive)
- 88 Roseberry Avenue, Preston (inclusive).

Statutory Process

The Act requires Council to give public notice of a proposed declaration of the Special Rate and write to all people who will be liable to contribute. The proposed Declaration for this Special Rate has been prepared in accordance with the Act.

Owners (or occupiers who would pay the rate as a condition of their lease) may object to the proposal within 28 days. Recent changes to the Act now stipulate that, if objections are received from more than fifty per cent of persons liable, Council will be prevented from making the declaration and the scheme cannot proceed.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's contribution in providing resources for the set up and administration of a new Special Rate Scheme is estimated to be \$25,000. This amount will not be recovered from the Preston Business Advisory Committee. It will be absorbed in Council's Business Development operational budget.

CONCLUSION

The proposed renewal to the Special Rate provides a sound financial basis for the Preston Central Business District to promote their centre. The process invites public comment and Council can review the proposed scheme in light of public submissions.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- In accordance with Section 163(1), (1A), (1B) and (1C), and Section 163B(3) of the *Local Government Act 1989* ('the Act'), give public notice in the 'Preston Leader' newspaper pending Council's endorsement of this recommended form of communication to the local businesses, notifying of its intention to make a declaration of a Special Rate from the 1 July 2014 for the encouragement of business and commerce in the Preston Central Business District and that a copy of the public notice be sent to each person who will be liable to pay the Special Rate.
- That Council allow 32 days to receive submissions, which is longer than the prescribed 28 days.
- That a Special Hearing Committee meeting of Council comprising all Darebin Councillors be held to hear any submissions lodged.
- Any persons who wish to be heard in support of their submissions will be heard at a Special Hearing Committee of Council at Darebin Council Chambers, Preston at 7.00pm on 11 June 2014 if required.
- A further report will be made to Council outlining all submissions or objections. Council will then resolve to either declare or abandon the Special Rate.
- If the Special Rate is adopted, affected persons then have a period of 30 days to lodge an objection with the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- Authorise the necessary execution of the financial agreement and five year business plan documents when presented to Council.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Local Government Act 1989*
- Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
- The Macquarie Special Rates and Charges Manual 2012
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Notice of Intention to Declare a Special Rate (**Appendix A**)
- List of rateable properties (**Appendix B**)
- Map of area to be included within the Special Rate (**Appendix C**)
- Summary of survey results (**Appendix D**)

Cr. Walsh, during discussion of the motion declared an 'interest' in the following item as he is a Director of the Inner North Training Group and on the board of the DECL.

8.13 DAREBIN JOBS ACTION PLAN

MINUTE NO. 237

AUTHOR: Manager Economic Development and Civic Compliance

REVIEWED BY: Director Assets and Business Services

SUMMARY

At its ordinary meeting held on 3 March 2014, Council resolved:

"That:

Council officers report back in May with a Darebin Jobs Action Plan to respond to the current jobs crisis impacting on Darebin and other suburbs in the Northern suburbs.

That this report prioritise practical actions and expansions to current programs to increase job creation and training in the face of unprecedented jobs losses in the local manufacturing, education and retail sectors in particular.

That the report also focus on current Council actions and joint programs and partner organisations that can be expanded and new initiatives that will meet the increasing jobs challenge for disadvantaged groups such as youth, new arrivals, disabled people, Aboriginal people and older workers.

Some new initiatives may include but not be limited to:

- an international trade show for local food manufacturers to cater for visiting international buyers*
- new apprentice and trainee positions on council aimed at local unemployed and aimed at fast tracking energy conservation, community care, urban renewal and tree planting*
- fast-tracking of new business planning permits*
- a doubling of the economic support fund to \$2 million to support promotion and expansion of jobs in our retail strips*
- creation of a new selective entry school in Darebin*
- bringing forward capital works on key Council assets and community projects*
- That any additional resources in the Darebin Jobs Action Plan be referred to the 2014 budget process for consideration."*

Initiatives currently being undertaken by Council include:

1. Business / Economic Support Fund
2. Darebin Jobs Link
3. Industry Forums
4. Employment Services Providers Forum

5. Business Engagement Officer
6. Active Spaces
7. 1000 Jobs in 3 years
8. Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE)
9. Business events
10. Business Mentoring
11. Wi-Fi
12. Business Directory
13. Traders Association Support

These initiatives are aimed at addressing the challenges of job creation, to help increase local employment for the region. They also support Darebin businesses to grow, improve their capability to employ locally and maximise their opportunities for success.

CONSULTATION

Internal Units:

- Public Realm
- Strategic Planning
- Business Development
- People and Development
- Community Planning and Partnerships

External Organisations:

- Housing Industry Association (HIA)
- Victorian Employer Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI)
- Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporate (VAEAI)
- APlus Apprentice Training and Solutions
- Mission Australia
- Brite Institute

Individuals and Businesses:

- Northland Centre Management
- Penny Jamieson (Centre Manager for Preston and Reservoir)
- Fire Station Café
- Next Door Café
- Westgarth Fish and Chips
- Barry Café
- Moda In Fashion

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note the identified new initiatives and potential expansions to existing programs presented in **Appendix A** as attached to this report.

Cr. Walsh, declared an 'interest' in this item as he is a Director of the Inner North Training Group and on the board of the DECL.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT Council defer the item to a June 2014 Council meeting and Councillor Briefing session to consider additional job stimulation options in the small business sector and the issue of underemployment in the Darebin Community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The City of Darebin has more than 144,000 residents and is home to one of the largest and most diverse communities in Victoria. Darebin's population is expected to grow by approximately 30,000 people over the next 20 years.

Darebin has a diverse and growing workforce that offers increasing levels of skills and qualifications for local businesses to utilise. Darebin is proud of the diversity of its workforce.

The 2012 National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) data showed that Darebin has:

- 74,291 residents working
- the largest percentage of Darebin's workforce was in the 35-44 age group
- Darebin businesses provide 55,278 jobs
- Darebin businesses employ 12,428 residents

Darebin has a thriving and diverse local economy serviced by more than 11,575 active businesses.

The four major employing industry sectors in Darebin are:

Industry Sector	%	No. of Full Time Equivalent Employed
Education and Training	14.1%	6,034
Retail	13.7%	5,469
Health Care and Social Assistance	11.4%	4,714
Manufacturing	11%	6,253

Source: NIEIR and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2012. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id The Population Experts.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Current Projects and Initiatives within Council

In March 2012, Council adopted the Business Development and Employment Strategy. The Strategy outlines a framework and clarifies Council's role in providing economic development opportunities, creating the right conditions and environment for business success and increasing local employment opportunities. The implementation of the Business Development and Employment Strategy has enabled Council to assist and support Darebin businesses through the following projects/activities:

Business / Economic Support Fund

In 2013/2014 Council introduced a Business Fund into the Capital Works program. This funded various upgrades and beautifications in shopping strips across the Municipality and allowed for additional cleaning to occur in the shopping centres. The Fund also provided for the delivery of various economic development initiatives including a jobs portal, feasibility of a café style incubator and a business prospectus.

Darebin Jobs Link

Darebin Jobs Link is a new website launched on 6 February 2014 that links local residents to job opportunities and employers to job seekers. It is a free service for businesses and residents and adds value to the work already undertaken by our local employment agencies and businesses. The Darebin Jobs Link website is part of Council's aim to build and support the capacity of local residents to provide them with a competitive edge when applying for jobs.

Industry Forums

Feedback from industry is extremely important for business development and employment growth in the City. The Business Development and Employment Strategy outlines the need for Council to facilitate a range of industry forums to educate and encourage business development. The forums held in 2013-2014 include financial services, business leaders and employment service providers. Future forums for this financial year include food manufacturers and the health industry.

Employment Service Providers Forum

It is important for Council to know and understand the needs of the employment service providers that operate within Darebin. Prior to organising the Employment Service Providers Forum in February 2013, Council conducted a survey to find out the key issues within this industry sector. The survey was completed by 9 local Employment Service Providers. The following is a summary of the responses provided:

- The providers were servicing 4,900 clients
- Of these, 44% were Darebin residents
- Approximately 40% were seeking full time employment, 40% part time employment and 20% casual employment
- Approximately 60% were long term unemployed (more than 6 months) and 40% were short term unemployed (up to 6 months).

The Employment Service Providers identified the following as the major barriers to matching job seekers to employment opportunities:

- Clients don't have skills, experience or necessary qualities
- Employers not willing to train
- Employers only paying basic wage
- Gaps with skills available and skills in demand
- Lack of employment opportunities in local labour market.

Business Engagement Officer

In 2013/2014 Councillors approved that a Business Engagement Officer was appointed for a 3 year period (from February 2014) to work closely with businesses to facilitate employment opportunities. It is estimated that this officer will conduct over 250 visitations in a 12 month period. Within the first 8 weeks this officer has assisted with the placement of 8 local students into local workplace training opportunities and identified 3 businesses that would like to increase employment. It is expected that this will continue to be the experience as the businesses gain, understand and trust with Council entering this space.

Active Spaces

Active Spaces in Darebin is a project where creative businesses are placed into long term vacant shops to revitalise and clean up Darebin's retail and business precincts. In 2013, the initiative has launched 12 pop up businesses: of which, 30% have negotiated longer leases, 63 people have been employed by trialling their business, and \$40,000 of rent has been generated for landlords. In addition, 50 visual artists have showcased their artworks in vacant shops.

1000 Jobs in 3 years

A key objective within the Business Development and Employment Strategy is to support a business focused approach to facilitate a positive experience and increase employment. The key measure for this objective is to create 1,000 jobs within 3 years. To assist in achieving this objective Council has:

- Facilitated the permit approval process for over 50 new and existing businesses.

- Facilitated access for Darebin businesses to various Federal and State Government funding for business growth and development which will lead to the creation of new jobs.
- Registered over 300 new businesses as cafés, restaurants and take away food places since March 2012. These new businesses have generated more than 400 jobs.

The data for Small Area Labour Markets from the Department of Employment indicates 1061 new jobs in the City of Darebin from June 2012 to December 2013.

Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE)

The Census of Land Use and Employment (CLUE) is a biannual survey of all 6,500 business properties (non-residential) in the Municipality. This information has been collected in 2010, 2012 and is currently being completed for 2014.

2012 CLUE has identified a total number of 8,635 jobs within the retail, education and training and motor vehicle industry sectors. The breakdown is as follows:

Industry Sector	Total number of people employed in Darebin
Store Based Retail (excluding food and motor vehicle retail)	4,787
Tertiary Education and Adult and Community Education	2,873
Motor Vehicle (including motor vehicle retail)	975

These industry sectors are identified as areas of potential job losses.

CLUE enables Council to monitor the type of employment (full time, part time and casual), the number of businesses operating in each industry and assists to identify changes/trends and clusters within various industries.

The 2012 CLUE has also identified those industry segments that have seen growth in employment since 2009:

Industry Sector	Increase
Wholesale Trade	552
Manufacturing	508
Retail – supermarket, clothing, department store	1,009
Arts and Recreation	247

Additional Business Development Unit Services

- Council provides on average 25 business events with over 1,600 people attending annually. These high quality events are delivered to meet the needs of business and include various topics of business planning, marketing and encourage residents to attend and start a business or create their own employment.
- Council provides free one-on-one sessions with qualified mentors via Business Victoria’s Small Business Mentoring Service. This service provides business with advice on a range of issues that sets a firm foundation for expansion.

- Wi-Fi – The need for free Wi-Fi connectivity to support Darebin’s retailers in the major retail precincts was recognised by the Business Development Unit and a trial in the Reservoir area was conducted. The program has since been extended to Northcote retail area. Due to the continued success and support for the initiative further expansion is planned over coming years.
- Business Directory – The City of Darebin provides a free business directory where business can post their details and a brief description of their products and services. This acts to maximise local sales and grow business to optimise local employment.
- Traders Association Support – Retailers are a major employer of Darebin residents. Council provides support to the retail associations by providing Christmas promotions, street promotions and events through the Special Rate Levy and various training seminars and workshops on topics such as retail leasing, marketing and using social media in business.

Employment Programs/Initiatives External to Council

Darebin City Council has well established partnerships with various organisations and key stakeholders in the northern region. These partnerships have allowed Council to work together on specific programs, projects and strategies to grow and develop business and employment in the North. These include:

Darebin Enterprise Centre Limited (DECL)

Darebin Enterprise Centre Limited (DECL) based in Alphington accommodates office based and small manufacturing businesses and assists them to successfully enter the wider business community. ArtsDECL, Darebin’s Creative and Digital Arts Incubator, is based in Northcote and offers similar services to DECL for creative green businesses.

DECL was one of Victoria’s first small business incubators and works closely with the Council to develop and grow small businesses. Its program assists start-up and growth enterprises in Melbourne’s north and Aboriginal business development across Australia.

As at the end of December 2013, DECL has achieved the following employment outcomes since its inception in 1997:

- Graduated 103 businesses with over 70% remaining in business upon relocation. These businesses were estimated to generate up to 207 employees on entry, 588 on exit (381 employee increase)
- Assisted, in partnership with Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT), the establishment of over 743 New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) enterprises with direct job creation of approximately 1,250
- Established Indigenous Business Hubs in Northern Territory, Tasmania and Victoria and assisted over 118 Indigenous businesses
- Delivered the ongoing NEIS program to unemployed persons seeking to establish businesses in Melbourne’s north.

NORTHLINK

NORTH Link is a regional partnership of industry, education and government. It is a business network and regional economic development advocacy group representing Melbourne’s northern region and is financially supported by the Cities of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea and Yarra. Through its partnerships with business, education providers and local government, NORTHLINK initiates programs and strategies to support business development and growth.

NORTHLink operates the Industry Skills Training and Employment (i-Step) Program, which supports business in the North by providing advice and information on employment and training.

Some of the achievements of the i-Step Program include:

- Placement of 126 job seekers into employment within the northern region
- Production, testing, promotion and dissemination of the Knowledge is Power Toolkit for job seekers
- Provision of recruitment services to over 100 local employers
- Creation of the Redundancy Info Link website to assist soon-to-be redundant workers with transition to their next endeavour.

Northern Melbourne Regional Development Australia (NMRDA)

This is an Australian Government initiative which brings together all levels of government to support the development of regional Australia, particularly in the areas of business development, education and employment opportunities. The Darebin region is covered by NMRDA.

NMRDA released a Strategic Regional Plan for 2013 – 2016. The key strategies of this plan are as follows:

- To accommodate population growth, combining timely provision of adequate employment, infrastructure, transport and amenity for current and future residents.
- A transport plan for the region is required. Congestion and transport issues have the potential to slow future economic development and integration, and reduce the quality of life for both workers and residents.
- The dynamism of the region should be increased through residential growth, improving skills of residents, business development, diversity and amenity.
- Increase employment and business opportunities by implementing recommendations from NMRDA's regional manufacturing report:
 - Support for business incubators and micro businesses
 - Increased commercial accommodation
 - Retention of employment lands in inner areas
 - Clustering and regional business networks.
- Melbourne's North should become a region of education and skills development, with policies to assist lower skilled workers in employment towards a knowledge economy.
- The decline of automotive manufacturing and its economic fallout must be offset with other forms of economic activity that provides similar employment opportunities for residents.
- Improved career guidance and pathways would give local young people the opportunity to use their skills and creativity to help grow the local economy.
- Retraining of workers who have lost their jobs.
- Businesses and households to have equitable, affordable and high standards of connection to broadband services, and that businesses adopt digital technology to ensure they are globally competitive.

- Strategies must be developed to realise the significant potential to expand the food processing sector.

Melbourne's North Ford Response Joint Task Force

This is a project that involves NORTHLink, Northern Melbourne RDA together with the Cities of Darebin, Hume, Whittlesea and Moreland. The Task Force was set up in June 2013 in direct response to the announcements of closures at Ford's Broadmeadows plant.

The main objectives of the Task Force are:

- To establish a sustainable partnership model and governance structure
- To advocate and promote local jobs for local people
- To identify other opportunities for business and employment growth through government funds, commercial infrastructure and investment attraction.

One of the Joint Task Force roles is to support the promotion of the \$24.5m Melbourne's North Innovation and Investment Fund, launched in July 2013 by the Federal Government. This Fund is a competitive program that encourages new investment to create new or additional business capacity that results in sustainable jobs in the Melbourne's North. Further announcements for manufacturers in the North are expected in the coming weeks.

Another government fund available to businesses is the Automotive New Markets Program. This is a \$42m competitive merit based grants program jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments. The objective of the program is to assist Australian automotive supply chain companies broaden their customer and product base, both domestically and internationally. One Darebin company, Sneddon and Kingston Plastics was successful in receiving over \$850,000 from the Program to undertake a project involving the transformation of automotive production lines to plastic food container production lines.

Inner Northern Local Learning and Employment Network (INLLEN)

INLLEN covers the LGA's of Darebin, Moreland and Yarra and has many strategies, projects and programs based around supporting young people. The main aim of INLLEN is to support young people (aged 10-19) by improving their participation, engagement, attainment and employment outcomes. INLLEN works towards their goals by partnering with local employers and education providers

INLLEN's strategic goals are:

- Retention and Completion – improving the retention and completion rates of 10-19 year olds in education and training, in particular Koorie and CALD/refugee young people
- Effective Transition – of young people from school to further education, training or employment with training or full time employment
- Improve Employment Opportunities – for young people 15-19 years of age in the INLLEN area
- Parental Engagement – improving parental engagement in young people's education
- Re-engagement – 10-19 year olds into education, training and or employment focusing on those young people who are at risk of disengaging, or who have already disengaged from education and training and are not in meaningful employment.

Over the past three years Council has worked with INLLEN to deliver on local projects which have focused on creating pathways leading to employment. These initiatives have had a school focus and have worked on developing career aspirations for young people.

INLLEN have supported and lead the development of many projects including:

- Northern Melbourne VET Cluster + Taster Programs (2006 – 2014)
- Trade Training facility at Northern College of the Arts and Technology (NCAT) (2002 – 2014)
- The Northern School Based Apprenticeship/Traineeship (SBAT) Taskforce (2010 – 2014)
- Engineering SBAT pilot (2011- 2012)
- SBAT Guide, Pathways Guide, Koorie Pathways Guide, School Leavers Guide (2009 – 2014)
- SBAT on Tap events (2012-2014)
- Real Industry Job Interviews; 20 schools involved in 3 local events in 2014
- Try a Trade (2009 – 2012)
- School Business Roundtables Breakfast Events 2012 (1 in each LGA)
- Work Inspiration Employer Breakfast 2013
- Principals for a Day Program (2011 – 2013)
- School Business Partnerships (Health, Manufacturing, Arts and Culture)
- 2 New Careers Clusters (Moreland/Darebin and Yarra).

Darebin Youth Commitment (DYC)

A Youth Commitment is a network of local schools, industry, education and community providers committed to improving access and opportunity for all young people living in the local area.

A Youth Commitment is a preventative strategy centred on the learning and work circumstances of young people. It provides a clear initial focus of energy, a common framework for action and a collective means of developing the life skills and active citizenship over time of each young person in local communities.

New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) Program – NMIT

NEIS is an Australian Government program which provides job seekers with accredited small business training, business mentoring, and income support to help them turn a business idea into a viable business and help them to become a self-employed business owner.

The Scheme is delivered by a national network of NEIS providers under Job Services Australia (the employment services system), in locations right around the country. NEIS providers include local organisations, such as Business Enterprise Centres, TAFEs, Small Business Centres, community organisations, and private sector businesses.

A NEIS provider gives job seekers personalised assistance to help them achieve their business goals, and will maintain regular contact for the first year of the new business to provide help to the NEIS participant to work through any business problems.

NMIT in Darebin runs the NEIS program in partnership with DECL.

Victorian State Government

The State Government has established “Plan Melbourne” a long term plan for Melbourne’s future growth in population and employment. The Plan envisages that by 2050:

- Melbourne will be Australia’s largest business centre
- 6.5 million people living in Melbourne
- 1.2 million new jobs.

The Plan aims to have 5 metropolitan sub regions and 6 National Employment Clusters. Darebin is part of the Northern metropolitan sub region and the emerging La Trobe Employment Cluster. A key focus area within the Plan is “*Delivering Jobs and investment*” through the supply of well-located industrial and commercial land capable of servicing employment and activity centre needs.

La Trobe Employment Cluster

The Northern Subregion is expected to grow by around 500,000 to 700,000 people by 2050. The key focus of the La Trobe Employment Cluster includes:

- Strengths in education, research, health and retail.
- A number of significant employment activities (such as La Trobe University and its industrial surrounds, Northland Shopping Centre and Austin Biomedical Alliance Precinct) and a concentration of other health, research, commercial and retail activities in and around the Heidelberg Activity Centre.
- Currently 25,700 jobs in the cluster.
- Represents an opportunity to increase the number and diversity of jobs in the subregion.

Each of these locations within the cluster has different strengths and contributions to make to the economy:

- La Trobe University has an expanding education and research role, including a growing student and research population and the recently completed AgriBio Centre.
- The Heidelberg precinct has a significant presence of health services, training and research institutions such as the Melbourne Brain Centre. Due to Austin Health’s critical mass of roughly 8000 staff, there is specialisation in some health services (such as toxicology and respiratory support) in Heidelberg, which sees the area providing state-wide services.

There are additional plans for each of these key locations, which indicate a growing commitment to the cluster.

- La Trobe University has plans to grow its research activities (especially in the biosciences), and encourage the commercialisation of research and the evolution of existing businesses.
- Land around the Northland Shopping Centre has a significant capacity to accommodate new jobs and housing.

Key partners for the future of this cluster include Darebin City Council, Banyule City Council, La Trobe University, Austin Health and other health and medical institutions.

The Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI)

VECCI is the peak body for employers in Victoria, informing and servicing more than 15,000 members, customers and clients around the State. VECCI has several initiatives around jobs and employment growth and in 2012 released its Jobs and Investment Plan: “*More Jobs, More Investment, VECCI’s Plans for Growth*”.

As part of this Plan, VECCI identified 6 key strategies it believes will stimulate investment and growth and lead to growth in employment in Victoria:

- (1) Reduce the Regulatory Burden
- (2) Reform taxation
- (3) Invest in infrastructure
- (4) Innovate
- (5) Invest in skills
- (6) Reform government purchasing policy

AusIndustry

AusIndustry is a specialist program delivery division within the Department of Industry. It delivers programs on behalf of the Australian Government to help existing and new Australian businesses innovate, grow and succeed. AusIndustry provides incentives and service opportunities for businesses in the areas of innovation, technology and investment. The various grants, assistance and referrals it offers include:

- Import and export assistance
- Clean technology
- Collaboration
- Energy and fuels
- Innovation and research and development
- Manufacturing
- Regional development funds.

Department of Employment (DOE)

The Australian Government Department of Employment is responsible for national policies and programs that help Australians find and keep employment and work in safe, fair and productive workplaces. The various services and support provided by the Department of Employment to enable people to gain employment and participate in society include:

- Jobs Services Australia
- Experience+
- Disability Employment Services
- Employment Research and Statistics
- Indigenous Employment Program
- New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS)
- Australian Job Search

- Experience+ Career Advice
- Australian Government Jobs and Skills Expos
- Work for the Dole
- Local Employment Coordinators.

Exporting Opportunities

VECCI

VECCI has various projects and plans based around supporting businesses and encouraging them to grow. One recent initiative is The Victoria Jiangsu Business Placement (VJBP), which provides an opportunity for Victorian manufacturing businesses to learn more about the success of similar businesses based in the Chinese province of Jiangsu (Victoria's sister State).

The VJBP is a 3 week program designed for current and future business owners and/or senior executives/directors of Victorian manufacturing organisations. Participants will be placed in a Jiangsu-based manufacturing company within their appropriate value chain, with the ultimate aim of forming long-term business alliances and relationships. City of Darebin's Business Development Unit will promote this opportunity to its manufacturing businesses.

Plenty Food Group

The Plenty Food Group (PFG) is a food manufacturing industry network for companies based in Melbourne's north, entirely focused on assisting small, medium and large companies in food processing, or those supplying products and services to the food manufacturing industry. Plenty Food Group provides food manufacturing businesses the opportunity to participate in overseas trade missions, expos (both domestic and internal) and provides information on exporting opportunities. Council is working with the Plenty Food Group to encourage Darebin food manufacturers to join the Group and benefit from participating in such events.

Food Innovation Australia Ltd (FIAL) - La Trobe University

FIAL is an industry-led, government funded initiative to accelerate commercially-driven collaboration and innovation in the Australian food industry. Its mission is to work together to create positive and transformational change in the Australian food and beverage industry.

FIAL's main objectives include:

- Ensure that Australia remains competitive in the global trade market.
- Address the national reduction in exports.
- Improve Australia's reputation overseas.
- Address rising input costs and barriers to export trade.
- Encourage business support and innovation.
- Help the industry to capitalise on local and Asian demand for premium and sustainably-produced food.
- Work with educational institutions to address an industry skills shortage, whilst ensuring that talent is retained within the industry.

- Address unemployment levels and the shortage of new talent within the food and beverage industry.

CONSULTATION WITH BUSINESSES AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

Consultation with several businesses in Darebin and key industry associations resulted in the following observations and recommendations:

Food Services*Northland Centre Management**Observations:*

- The businesses operating out of the Northland Shopping Centre have access to a variety of retail support and training.
- Retail has not declined it is just that some businesses are doing better than others.
- It is the 'independent' (non-franchised) businesses that could do with the most assistance in terms of business planning and other business skills.

Recommendations:

- Continue to run various retail training sessions to build the capacity of retailers.
- Provide these sessions in partnership with Northland Shopping Centre.

*Fire Station Café – Preston**Observations:*

- The business operates as an independent business on High Street, Preston. The business has operated under the current management for a number of years.
- Rental increases have seen a drop in profitability. There is a need to increase numbers to meet rising costs.
- Parking availability is a concern for patrons.
- Staff are employed via word of mouth because employment agencies have continually offered under qualified individuals.
- Increased cost of doing business including tax, work cover, insurance, increases in rent etc.

Recommendations:

- Provide employment incentive scheme/grants information for businesses.
- Provide advice on how to negotiate rent.
- Review parking in the area for visitors particularly in Roseberry Street.
- Liaise with employment agencies regarding potential training for candidates for the food service industry.

Next Door Café – South Preston*Observations:*

- The business operates in High Street South Preston servicing workers in the area. It is a Monday to Friday business only.
- Weekend trading was tested but with little success due to lack of foot traffic.
- The owner, who also owns a Hair Dressing business next door called Shiba is opening a similar business at 381 High Street Preston.
- Planning advice given by Council is confusing.

Recommendations:

- Street upgrades with trees and benches to improve the experience for patrons.
- Parking in High Street should be extended to longer than 1 hour to enable patrons to enjoy a leisurely meal.
- Council to provide clear planning advice for new businesses.
- Increase the number of office and professional businesses operating in the Preston precinct. This will assist increasing employment.

Westgarth Fish and Chips – Westgarth*Observations:*

- The business is a typical Fish and Chip shop that does a majority of take away trade.
- The business trades throughout the day serving a number of peak times with afternoons and evening being very important.
- The owners bought an existing business and had little contact with Council for planning and set-up.
- Turnover is in direct correlation with employment.

Recommendations:

- Reduce parking times from 1 Hour to 30min in the High Street Westgarth strip as it appears it is the business owners and staff that are using this area to park.
- Increase the amount of parking available for visitors.
- Remove competition from unlicensed and competing casual food vans.
- Remove the clearway status as 4.30pm is a peak hour for takeaway businesses due to school children and parents.

Barry Café – Westgarth*Observations:*

- The business is operating as a café and coffee business.
- The owners and operators have considerable experience in operating businesses of a similar type in Richmond.
- Most of their clients are locals who walk, cycle and drive into the area or who are attracted by the Westgarth Cinema or the Organic supermarket in the strip.

Recommendations:

- Parking availability can be an issue at times and may restrict growth of the business.
- Turnover and business growth will be a driver for more employment.
- Vacant shops could be a problem to attracting shoppers who also stop in at the business.

Retail Sector*Penny Jamieson – Centre Manager for Preston and Reservoir**Observations:*

- Business owners are working longer hours to keep staff at current level.
- Cost of doing business has increased (Work Cover, penalty rates, superannuation etc.) and this affects the ability to increase staff levels.

Recommendations

- Don't increase rates.
- Advocate for reducing operational costs (water, electricity, insurance etc.).

*Moda In Fashion – Fairfield**Observations:*

- Cost of doing business (for example, rates are 10% of rental expense).
- Plenty of opportunities for business growth.
- Customers are still spending money.

Recommendations:

- Improve car parking and signage in the area.
- Ensure there are a variety of shops. This will improve the experience of customers.
- Increase foot traffic in the street.
- Increase festivals.
- Improve streetscapes to make it more inviting to customers. This will increase income for businesses.

Industry Groups/Associations*Victorian Employment Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VECCI)**Observations:*

- A major growth sector for jobs in Victoria is health and aged care.
- Although there is a decline in mass production manufacturing there is still growth in the area of Advanced Manufacturing, in particular research and development and those innovative manufacturers utilising advanced techniques.
- Highly supportive of the State Government's Plan Melbourne Strategy, describing it as a "stepping stone to investment and jobs creation".

Recommendations:

- Give priority to reducing red tape in the most heavily regulated sectors of the economy, including transport and distribution, construction, tourism, food processing, insurance and financial services.
- Continue to improve equity of access for individuals disadvantaged in the labour market, as well as for businesses operating in thin markets.

*Housing Industry Association (HIA)**Observations:*

- HIA is a national industry association for domestic home builders representing the interests of the housing industry at regional and national levels.
- Lack of uniformity in local laws and in some cases oppressive enforcement of local laws on building sites.
- Long delays in the planning process - it is not unusual for a planning permit that meets all the requirements of the planning scheme to take between 6-12 months to process.
- There is a lot of positive activity particularly in the new home market across Melbourne including the Northern suburbs. At this stage this is not translating into a high amount of activity in terms of the uptake of apprentices but the general trend is up and confidence is improving.

Recommendations:

- Make building easier and cheaper in the Municipality.
- Make Municipality more attractive to developers by freeing up the lengthy delays. This would stimulate work.

*Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI)**Observations:*

- Darebin has many service providers working in the area of Aboriginal employment, including VAEAI and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VACSAL).
- VAEAI focuses on improving educational outcomes for aboriginal young people.
- VACSAL is a community services organisation that houses an Aboriginal Employment Officer whose role is to link job seekers from an aboriginal background into local employment opportunities.
- Darebin is also a focal ground for the Indigenous Youth Careers Pathways (IYCP) Program which aims to establish over 100 school based apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities for aboriginal young people currently in secondary school.

Recommendations:

There are a variety of initiatives and programs being coordinated by VAEAI:

- A new program for young people on community based orders which focuses on employment outcomes.
- A program looking at preventive measures to young people using the drug ICE again with employment outcomes to combat one of the triggers to drug use.

- A program for educating young people with autism using others with autism as mentors, again with the outcome being stable employment.

APlus Apprentice Training and Solutions

Observations:

- APlus Apprentice and Trainee Solutions is a Darebin based Group Training Organisation (GTO).
- APlus acts as an employer who sources apprentices and trainees for “host” employers, then coordinate all aspects of the employment and training including mentoring and supporting the apprentice/trainees.
- Currently APlus have approximately 530 apprentices/trainees employed whereby:
 - 16 are from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background
 - 38 live in Darebin.
- 20 companies in Darebin employ apprentices/trainees through APlus.
- There are 62 apprentices/trainees employed in those 20 companies.
- 13 of the 62 apprentices/trainees are placed within Darebin Council in various departments.

Recommendations:

- Council should purchase their goods and services locally. This would increase business stability and have an impact on employment growth.
- Link Darebin businesses with each other so they can purchase locally as well.
- Encourage developers when they build in Darebin to employ a certain percentage of local people.
- Council to support the development of a Youth Employment Strategy which includes all diverse groups.
- Council to support the employment of apprentices/trainees every year, including School Based Apprenticeships/Traineeships.

Health Sector

Prospective Health Professional

Observations:

- Currently looking for a site in Darebin to operate an established service business in the health industry.
- A major consideration will be to locate a site that will provide ample parking for both staff and patients.
- Health industry employs specialised professionals as well as administrative and ancillary staff.

Recommendations:

- Council to provide a register of commercial real estate agents for prospective businesses to assist in finding a suitable location.

- Council to facilitate a process with potential businesses to clarify planning requirements and other relevant considerations for possible site locations.
- Businesses require certainty with decisions by Council before they can commit to a location.

Darebin Industry Forum Consultations**Financial Services Forum – 27 November 2013**

This Forum was part of a series of industry forums held by Council as part of the Business Development and Employment Strategy to support local business. The Forum was attended by 10 of our local Accountants, Financial Advisors and Planners.

It was a great opportunity for Council to be informed on any issues and challenges facing the finance industry and how Council can assist with these.

Observations:

- Darebin has great opportunities for development.
- Demographic is changing.
- Lots of food businesses opening up in the area.
- Middle level management losing jobs.
- Increase in unemployment in the area and jobs going overseas.

Recommendations:

- Have ongoing communication with businesses.
- Develop a business kit for new businesses with information about starting up, types of government assistance (funding and grants), planning advice and general business support.
- Encourage re-development in the area.

Business Leaders Forum – 19 March 2014

This Forum was attended by 15 of Darebin's key business leaders. Through facilitated discussion, the businesses shared their views about current workforce challenges and emerging opportunities in their industry area and how Council can work with them to support these.

Observations:

- Great opportunities for business in Darebin.
- Good transport overall, but better in some areas than others.
- Range of boutique, artisan skills within Darebin.

Recommendations:

- Council should support local business and buy local.
- Continue ongoing engagement with businesses.
- Improve relationship between Council and the larger employers in Darebin.
- More forward thinking regarding infrastructure and re-development.

- Don't get rid of industrial land.
- Protect and provide space for local artists.

Future Employment Programs and Initiatives

Business / Economic Support Fund

In 2014/2015 the Business Fund will provide for:

- Continued commercial rollout of Wi-Fi in public spaces in shopping strips in Preston Central and/or Fairfield
- Economic Development projects to assist in the delivery of the Digital Strategy and the Business Development and Employment Strategy including an Employment/Jobs Forum
- CEO/Mayors Northern Region advocacy to ensure the early rollout of the NBN and NBN Northern Region event/conference.

Darebin Employment Forum

The Employment Forum in Darebin would provide the opportunity for businesses, industry, government (all levels), job seekers, job service providers, education providers and the community to come together to share the various issues and challenges regarding employment in our Municipality.

It is envisaged to hold the Forum in late August 2014 and conducted with an "SBS Insight" style discussion. There will be breakout sessions to workshop ideas and achievable outcomes and actions for all stakeholders.

Inner Northern Youth Employment Taskforce and Strategy (Darebin, Moreland, Yarra)

INLLEN is currently proposing the adoption of a Youth Employment Strategy. This is an initiative that will involve the three Local Government Areas of Darebin, Moreland and Yarra, as well as local business, industry and education providers in coming up with strategies to address the rising youth unemployment problems in the Inner Northern region.

Youth unemployment data provided by INLLEN:

	Total labour force 15-24 year olds	Youth Unemployed	%
Darebin	9,858	1,498	15.2%
Moreland	11,302	1,424	12.6%
Yarra	5,580	576	10.3%
Total	26,740	3,498	13.1%

Sourced from ABS data (2011- 2014)

INLLEN believes it is an ideal time to bring the key leaders together in the Inner Northern region to establish a taskforce to develop a Youth Employment Strategy and a plan of action. A proactive positive response to this issue is required.

Forward Looking Potential / Additional Initiatives

Business Facilitator

The introduction of a Business Facilitator would expedite minor business planning permits to reduce time and streamline the planning process for businesses. The Facilitator would provide potential businesses with consistent planning information and advice and would be available to meet businesses onsite and provide a 'consultant-like' service. This would ensure that all permit requirements are identified at the beginning of the process, with the aim being that permits are approved in a shorter period of time.

Northland Economic Business Case and Employment Study

A Northland Economic Business Case and Employment Study (NEBCES) would lay foundation for future investment attraction and employment creation in the Northland Precinct. It would consider the existing business and employment conditions, pinpoint direct competing interests and barriers to creating a long term business mix profile. This would be in the context of the nearby knowledge intensive uses associated with La Trobe University and the Austin Health Precinct. Part of this study could be undertaken in-house through the use of economic models.

The Northland Structure Plan and Vision will identify growth potential for existing business as well as recommend new business sectors to attract to the precinct - achieved by attracting investment that generates local employment and leverage off our local strengths and contribute to the emerging La Trobe Employment Cluster identified in Plan Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Strategy. It will assist advocacy and strengthen the proposed land use planning controls to be applied to the rezoning from industrial to activity centre zoning, which are to be tested by an independent planning panel.

Business Group Program

Council is able to seek funding from the State Government (Department of State Development and Business Innovation – DSDBI) to host a program for businesses that would develop new opportunities for growth. The program would involve a series of workshops and could cover a broad range of topics including marketing, recruiting, identifying key drivers of business, strategies for growth and succession planning.

Attraction Strategy for Social Enterprises

There are currently 11 Social Enterprises operating in Darebin. The benefits of having Social Enterprises in Darebin include: increase in the number of businesses, increase local employment, particularly for people from disadvantaged groups, and profits made are usually put back into programs and projects that benefit the community. An Attraction Strategy for Social Enterprises would benefit the wider Darebin community by providing support to social inclusion programs that assist marginalised groups to become workplace ready.

Business Grants

The Cities of Melbourne, Geelong and Frankston offer various forms of business grants. For example, grants offered by the City of Melbourne include start up, business expansion, export entry and micro business. The Business Development Unit would research and benchmark the success of these programs and other similar programs across Australia and internationally. It would also consider various philanthropic style programs such as the recently launched Arts Business Grants of the City of Yarra. A specific model, governance structure and amount of funding would be provided as part of the research.

Rollout of Pathways to Employment to Darebin businesses

Council's Pathways to Employment Casual Pool program is a very successful model that could be replicated for local businesses. The program involves providing disadvantaged groups to undertake a Certificate III in Business Administration. This provides them with basic office skills and training.

The Business Development Unit with the assistance of the People and Development Unit could investigate whether this model could be sustainable if it is adopted by businesses. The benefit of this 'casual pool' would enable businesses to have access to additional trained labour on request.

Additional Incubators and co-location spaces

Council is currently undertaking a feasibility study for a café style incubator. This is expected to be presented to Council in June/July of 2014. There are now over a 1,000 businesses using co-location working spaces (hubs) in the CBD of Melbourne and this is slowly expanding into smaller suburban locations.

Benefits of co-location working spaces:

- Support the growth and development of the many home based and micro businesses operating in Darebin.
- The businesses are not start-ups and are not resource intensive to support.
- The type of support provided will include high speed internet via blue cable or Wi-Fi, mail drop, printing, rentable meeting rooms and coffee and tea facilities.
- Provides businesses with the interaction, informality and emotional support for likeminded operators.

Creation of a new selective entry school in Darebin

There is a lack of variety in secondary education facilities in Darebin. This is indicative in the movements of families away from Darebin to the west and east of Melbourne once their children are ready to commence secondary school.

There are presently 4 selective entry secondary schools in Melbourne, none of which are in the Northern region. A new school or campus in Darebin would contribute to the creation of employment in the education sector and has the potential to foster excellence in academic thinking in the north by keeping our best and brightest in the Municipality and contributing to the local economy.

Forward Looking Potential Additional Resources

Business Engagement Officer

Darebin has a large number of home based and micro businesses. The position would engage with this sector and build a network to offer support to help these businesses grow. The intention would also be to involve these businesses in various strategies and programs that would increase employment opportunities for residents and businesses in Darebin.

Export Officer

Food manufacturing in Darebin and the northern region is a growing industry. This role would assist our businesses to engage with overseas markets.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Darebin has a culturally diverse community and it will be important to support and promote programs and initiatives that assist the employment needs of various groups within the community.

The initiatives identified in this report will contribute towards increasing local employment opportunities as well as other social benefits to Darebin's community.

Economic Development

The vision of the Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015 is for Darebin to have a positive and connected business environment with a dynamic and diverse economy that has sustainable growth and operations and generates local employment opportunities.

To realise this vision the Strategy identified five key strategic directions as the building blocks to drive Darebin's economic development over a three year period. Two key strategic directions are:

- Employment and skills
- Business and industry development

The goals under these directions are to provide Darebin residents the opportunity and capability to participate in the local workforce and to assist businesses and industry to diversify and maximise opportunities for business development. Actions to achieve these goals are to support programs and initiatives that will lead to improved job opportunities and in turn improve the capability of Darebin businesses to source employment locally.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Any additional initiatives and/or extensions to programs would require additional financial and non-financial resources and will require further quantification and a report back to Council for further consideration.

CONCLUSION

This report has provided information on current Council actions, activities and joint programs with key stakeholders to increase employment opportunities in Darebin.

Council has undertaken extensive consultation with business and industry groups and associations to inform ways in which current programs may be expanded and new initiatives introduced to respond to the job creation challenge facing Darebin.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The consideration be given to the following short to medium term initiatives and programs:

- An expansion to the current Business / Economic Support Fund.
- Establishment of a Darebin Employment Form.
- The development of a Youth Employment Taskforce and the Youth Employment Strategy being proposed by Inner Northern Local Learning Employment Network (INLLEN).
- The introduction of a Business Facilitator to expedite minor business planning permits to reduce time and streamline the planning process for businesses.
- A Northland Economic Business Case and Employment Study.
- An expanded business Group Training Program.
- The development of an Attraction Strategy for Social Enterprises.
- The establishment of Business Grants Program to Darebin businesses.
- The rollout of Council's Pathways to Employment Casual Pool program to Darebin businesses.
- Additional incubators and co-location spaces.
- Advocating for a new selective entry school or a campus of an existing selective entry school to be based in Darebin.
- Provision of required financial and non-financial resources.

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

- Identified new initiatives and potential expansions to existing programs (**Appendix A**)
- Business Development and Employment Strategy 2012-2015
- Darebin Youth Commitment Strategic Plan 2012 – 2013
- Northern Melbourne RDA Regional Plan 2013 – 2016
- Melbourne's North Now and Tomorrow Summit Summary Report
- Plan Melbourne (Delivering Jobs and Investment)
- More Jobs More Investment: VECCI's Plan for Growth
- Melbourne's North Ford Response Joint Task Force – Terms of Reference
- Council Meeting Minutes – 3 March 2014

Cr. Tsitas temporarily left the meeting at the commencement of this item at 8.26 pm and returned during discussion at 8.30 pm.

8.14 BUSINESS RECYCLING SERVICE**MINUTE NO. 238****AUTHOR: Manager Environment and Natural Resources****REVIEWED BY: Director Business Services and Assets****SUMMARY:**

At its meeting held on 17 February 2014, Council resolved that:

“Council officers report back at the Council meeting 5 May 2014 after consulting with traders across the municipality on recycle garbage collections. The report should outline a possible strategy that could be put in place for businesses to use for their extra recycle reusable items.”

Council has previously surveyed businesses regarding this issue and established a business recycling service. It is proposed to improve the service by increasing the number of bins available and to advertise the service and its improvements through promotions including a mail-out to all business properties.

CONSULTATION:

- Manager City Works
- Manager Economic Development and Employment
- Litter Prevention Officer

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. J. Williams
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT Council:

- (1) Endorse improvement to the business recycling service to provide up to 2 recycling bins per property at a one off charge of \$88 per bin, with no annual fee.
- (2) Advertise the business recycling service improvements including a mail out to all business properties.
- (3) Consider further action as part of the upcoming Waste Management Strategy review.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In response to concerns regarding businesses being able to access Council recycling collections, Council resolved on 17 February 2014 that:

“Council officers report back at the Council meeting 5 May 2014 after consulting with traders across the municipality on recycle garbage collections. The report should outline a possible strategy that could be put in place for businesses to use for their extra recycle reusable items.”

Council surveyed businesses in 2011 regarding recycling services and as a result of that survey on 21 November 2011 resolved to introduce the standard residential recycling service to businesses for a one off price of \$88, with no annual fee charged. The service was advertised to all business properties through a mail out in May 2012 and commenced in July 2012. To date 390 business properties have opted to have a Council recycling collection through this service.

Council also offer businesses and residents free recycling at the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre. The Centre accepts cardboard, paper, commingled recycling, televisions and computers and metals to be recycled free of charge.

Council’s Waste Management Strategy includes business waste and recycling issues and will be reviewed in 2014/2015.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Business activity is diverse, as is the waste produced from business activity. As such, businesses generally deal directly with private sector collection companies providing for specialised and flexible collection services. Space for bin storage and collection is a critical issue and many businesses pay for daily or weekly collections from specialised collectors with small vehicles. There is little Darebin-specific data available on waste generation and recycling rates for this sector, but based on regional averages it is expected that the commercial and industrial sector accounts for over 60,000 tonnes of solid waste generated in Darebin every year. Sustainability Victoria estimates that 60% of this material is recycled annually, though this varies for different sectors.

Survey of Darebin Businesses – October 2011

200 Darebin businesses responded to detailed surveys regarding recycling undertaken on behalf of Council by Metropolis Research. 60% of businesses surveyed reported they would be interested in a Council provided fortnightly collection of a 240 litre recycling bin, for a once off cost of \$88. A further 10% indicated they would be interested in such a service, only if the bin was provided at lower or no cost. The survey specifically excluded businesses situated in private shopping centres including Preston Market, Northland, Northcote Plaza and Northcote Central as centralised private collections operate in these centres.

As is the case with residential waste, Council also provides an 80 litre waste bin to businesses, collected weekly, at no cost. From this survey, 40% of businesses reported that they were already using this waste collection service.

Through the survey, businesses were also asked "In what ways, if any, could Council help your business become more environmentally sustainable?" 29 responses of "Provide recycling projects like this one" were recorded, the next most popular answer recorded was "More communication and information" with 15 responses.

The 2011 survey cost \$7,500. If a more extensive survey is required costs would need to be considered in a future budget year.

Service cost and fees

The costs to set up the service including one off supply, administration and delivery costs of the bin are \$88 (GST inclusive) per bin. In addition estimated annual operating costs to Council are \$20 per 240 litre recycling bin provided to a business (including collection, processing and bin amortisation costs).

Council adopted the one off fee of \$88 for businesses to opt into the service. This ensures that establishment costs are covered and ensures that businesses value and use the service. As Council is paid for the amount of materials recycled a bin that is not being used costs Council more than a bin being used.

Whilst an ongoing annual fee could be charged, this would be difficult to justify as residents are not paying annual fees for the same service. There are benefits in a city wide annual waste management charge for all receiving a waste service. This type of charge will be considered in Council's upcoming Waste Management Strategy review.

Possible service improvements

The standard fortnightly kerbside recycling collection predominantly suits small businesses that do not need more frequent collections. At least one business receiving the collection has requested that Council extend the service to provide 2 recycling bins per property. It is proposed to increase the number of bins provided to up to 2 recycling bins per property. If an additional bin is provided, bin placement for collection may be an issue for some dense retail areas such as High Street, and in some extreme situations a Council recycling service may not be able to be provided due to access considerations. If this occurs, and the service cannot be safely provided, the payment for the service would be refunded.

In the past, officers have explored the potential for brokering recycling collections for businesses and providing shared bin collection areas. Unfortunately these types of proposals are difficult to get buy in, as each business has slightly different needs and businesses on separate titles are generally against taking away one or more parking spaces to provide a joint recycling area.

Council officers continue to advocate to businesses located in private contained shopping centres to provide and/or improve recycling services. Officers are currently working with Preston Market as part of a litter project in the area.

Business recycling service communication

The business recycling service was advertised to all businesses on its introduction in 2012 through a mail out to all business properties, as well as through placement in local newspapers, trader newsletters and through Council's website.

If the service improves to provide traders with up to 2 recycling bins it would be timely to undertake another mail out to business properties advertising the service and its changes. This mail out would be undertaken in conjunction with the mailout used to reinforce Council expectations regarding trader waste as adopted by Council on 7 April 2014 after consideration of the *Commercial Waste around Shopping Centres Council report*. Further suggested promotions of the new service would include other standard communications mediums – Council’s on hold message, website, Mayor’s Message/Newspaper advertising, media release and traders’ association newsletters.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Increasing recycling and diverting waste from landfill provides environmental benefits, including conservation of resources, water, energy and reduction of pollution.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Mail outs and brochures regarding the service to date have included language translations and clear diagrams for the use of the recycling bin.

Economic Development

The business recycling service may be convenient to smaller businesses or those that generate small amounts of recyclables. It is unlikely to have significant economic development or employment impacts.

Other

The proposals are consistent with the Council Plan commitments regarding sustainable and resilient neighbourhoods.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The current \$88 one off cost per recycling bin for businesses offsets the introduction costs of the recycling service to businesses including administration, bin supply and delivery costs. Estimated annual operating costs to Council are \$20 per 240 litre recycling bin provided to a business (including collection, processing and bin amortisation costs). With current take up, net costs of the service are \$7,800 annually.

Providing annual waste management charges on rates notices to all properties who receive waste services is considered industry best practice and provides a more transparent and equitable way of apportioning service costs between residences and businesses that have very different waste needs. The benefits of this type of charge will be considered in Council’s upcoming Waste Management Strategy review.

CONCLUSION

It is proposed that the business recycling service be improved to provide up to 2 recycling bins at a one off charge of \$88 per bin, with no annual fee. To increase awareness of the business recycling service and improvement, if adopted, further promotion is recommended including a mail out to businesses. Further action could be considered as part of the upcoming Waste Management Strategy review.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Subject to Council approval – implement business recycling improvements
- Advertise the recycling service to all businesses including a mail out to all businesses.
- Consider business waste and recycling issues as part of the Waste Management Strategy review in 2014/2015.

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 Meeting Minutes – 21 November 2011, 17 February 2014 and 7 April 2014
- City of Darebin Waste Management Strategy 2007-2014

Cr. Walsh temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 8.38 pm and returned at 8.42 pm.

Cr. Villella temporarily left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 8.39 pm and returned at 8.41 pm.

8.15 **DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL'S SUBMISSION REGARDING THE
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION ACT 1975**

MINUTE NO. 239

AUTHOR: **Manager Community Planning and Customer Service**

REVIEWED BY: **Director Community Development**

SUMMARY

Darebin is home to a culturally diverse community that acknowledges the benefits of successive multicultural policies and the various federal and state legislation and regulations that provide protection from discrimination, vilification and racial hatred.

On 25 March the Attorney General announced the Government's intention to make changes to the Racial Discrimination Act (RDA) 1975. The proposed changes seek to repeal sections 18C, 18B, 18D and 18E which make it unlawful for a person to "*offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate*" others because of their race or ethnicity.

The Federal Government argues that these sections restrict the freedom of speech.

In light of Council's research into racism and its effects on community cohesion, community safety, and health and wellbeing, a submission has been prepared opposing the proposed amendments. This Report outlines the key elements to Council's submission, based on Council policies such as the Racism Inquiry 2012, the Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015, the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015, the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017, the Darebin Community Safety Strategy and the Darebin Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015.

The closing date for submissions is 30 April 2014.

CONSULTATION

- Equity and Diversity Team
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse the submission to the Federal Attorney General relating to the proposed changes to the Federal Racial Discrimination Act 1975 attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT Council:

- (1) Endorse the submission to the Federal Attorney General relating to the proposed changes to the Federal Racial Discrimination Act 1975 attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Write an urgent email to the MAV, VLGA and other Victorian municipalities communicating Council's concerns and urging them to also make a submission to the Federal Attorney General

CARRIED

A Division was called:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. B. Li	Cr. O. Walsh
Cr. J. Williams	
Cr. G. Greco	
Cr. S. Tsitas	
Cr. T. Laurence	
Cr. A. Villella	
Cr. T. McCarthy	

The Chairperson, Cr. Greco, declared the motion to be carried.

REPORT**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

On 25 March 2014, the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, released an exposure draft Bill on the proposed amendments to the RDA 1975. Submissions on the draft were sought from the community with a closing date of 30 April 2014.

Section 18C of the RDA makes it unlawful for someone to commit an act that is reasonably likely to "offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate" someone because of their race or ethnicity.

Section 18D of the Racial Discrimination Act contains exemptions which protect freedom of speech. These ensure that artistic works, scientific debate and fair comment on matters of public interest are exempt from section 18C, providing they are said or done reasonably and in good faith (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2014).

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Australia has obligations to implement protections against racial hatred under the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) and the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD).

Sections 18C and 18D were introduced in response to recommendations of major inquiries including the *National Inquiry into Racist Violence* and the *Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*. These inquiries found that racial hatred and vilification can cause emotional and psychological harm to their targets, and reinforce other forms of discrimination and exclusion. They found that seemingly low-level behaviour can soften the environment for more severe acts of harassment, intimidation or violence by impliedly condoning such acts.

Echoing these inquiries, the Australian Law Reform Commission published the 1992 report, *Multiculturalism and the Law*, which recommended the introduction of legislation to deal with racial hatred (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2014).

The government is proposing to repeal four sections of the Act:

- 18B - allows race or colour to be one of the reasons for hate speech
- 18C - makes it unlawful for someone to commit an act that is "reasonably likely to..."offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate" someone or a group of people because of their race or colour
- 18D - allows exemptions to protect free speech which includes "performance, exhibition or distribution of an artistic work" or if it is in the course of a "statement, publication, discussion...or any other genuine purpose in the public interest"
- 18E - holds employers liable for offensive acts done by their employees

The above sections are to be replaced by the following:

An act will be considered as unlawful if it is reasonably likely to:

***Vilify** another person or a group of persons which could incite hatred against a person or a group of persons; **or intimidate** another person or a group of persons because of their race or colour. To intimidate means to cause fear of physical harm.*

The following exemption will also be introduced that says:

This section does not apply to words, sounds, images or writing spoken, broadcast, published or otherwise communicated in the course of participating in the public discussion of any political, social, cultural, religious, artistic, academic or scientific matter. (<http://www.abc.net.au/local/audio/2014/03/26/3972024.htm>)

Darebin City Council's Submission

The Darebin City Council's submission is based on three key arguments:

- The exposure draft does not recognise the wide ranging impacts of non-violent forms of racism on an individual's health and wellbeing, their capacity to participate in society and subsequent impact on society in general
- The exposure draft ignores that while an individual's freedom of speech is essential in a democratic society, it is never absolute but rather subject to a set of responsibilities
- The exposure draft leaves little, if any, room for a person to make a complaint as a result of the exemption categories and the power imbalance set by section (3)

Overall, the concern is that the proposed changes provide little to no protection to individuals and groups affected by racism and display a lack of understanding of the detrimental impacts racism has, not only on individuals, but across the broader community.

The submission draws on key Council policies and research such as the Racism Inquiry 2012, the Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015, the Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015, the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017, the Darebin Community Safety Strategy and the Darebin Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015.

The submission highlights that the proposed changes could constitute a backward step for Australia and risk damaging social cohesion and Australia's reputation as a successful multicultural country. The Act as it stands provides a clear message that hate speech is not free speech when it denigrates people on the basis of their race, colour and/or ethnicity.

The Darebin community values the diversity of its people and supports Council's work in fostering intercultural understanding and respect. Freedom of speech is not an absolute right as every freedom comes with the responsibility of respecting the freedom of others.

Restricting the Act to vilification and inciting violence, denies and dismisses the detrimental effects of psychological and mental damage experienced by people whose race colour, and/or ethnicity are subjected to hate speech, insults and ridicule. Such behaviour has far reaching consequences not only in terms of negative health impacts but by also reinforcing and perpetuating direct and indirect discriminatory practices.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There are no environmental implications resulting from this report

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

In light of Council's existing policies and research, it is evident that the proposed amendments to the RDA remove much needed protection from racial hatred and if approved could jeopardise social cohesion and pose a threat to people's entitlement to live their life free from racial discrimination. Council's policy platform does not support the amendments as they are not in the best interest of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities nor Darebin's culturally diverse communities.

Economic Development

The proposed changes to the RDA could have a negative impact on Australia's economy. The removal of protection from racial abuse and racial hatred could impact on Australia's revenue derived from education fees of international students for example. Furthermore, there are financial costs associated with health impacts of racial abuse and discrimination in addition to the withdrawal from participating in the social and economic aspects of life by individuals subjected to racial discrimination and abuse.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications resulting from the submission

CONCLUSION

The submission opposes the amendments to the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 as proposed by the Attorney General, the Hon George Brandis QC in his released exposure draft Bill. The basis for this position is that the proposed changes fail to recognise and mitigate against the wide ranging impacts of non-violent forms of racism on an individual's health and wellbeing, their capacity to participate in society and subsequent impact on society in general. That while an individual's freedom of speech is essential in a democratic society, it is never absolute but rather subject to a set of responsibilities. The new Act leaves little, if any, room for a person to make a complaint as a result of the exemption categories and the power imbalance set by section (3) of the amended Act.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Lodge the submission to the Attorney General's Department

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's submission (**Appendix A**)
- Extract from the *Racial Discrimination Act* 1975, sections 18B, 18C, 18D, and 18E (**Appendix B**)
- Proposed Amendment to the *Racial Discrimination Act* 1975 (**Appendix C**)

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

10. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Cr. McCarthy declared an 'interest' in the following item as he is standing as a Greens candidate at the 2014 State election.

11.1 INTERCULTURAL CENTRE**MINUTE NO. 240****COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED: Cr. A. Villella****SECONDED: Cr. B. Li**

THAT officers prepare a report for the Council meeting to be held on 19 May 2014 on the implication the State government's intention to use the Intercultural Centre for VCAT hearings will have on the Centre's ability to deliver its 2014 program and beyond.

If the report determines the Centre's program and objectives will be substantially compromised the report will consider alternative sites (both short term and long term) including but not limited to the former Preston Girls site and existing unused council owned properties.

As the state government has informed Council of its intention, the matter is arguably urgent thus the report should be brought to Council as soon as practicable.

CARRIED

11.2 ANZAC CENTENARY**MINUTE NO. 241****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

MOVED: Cr. O. Walsh
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT Council receives a briefing report on ways that Council can commemorate the centenary of the Anzac in April 2015.

Research for this report may consider consultation with Darebin RSL and other relevant organisations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**11.3 FLEET CARS****MINUTE NO. 242****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

MOVED: Cr. J. Williams
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT Officers submit a report back to council at a meeting in July 2014, on the feasibility using council vehicles to promote ongoing issues or topical issues across the community.

The report may outline a variety of promotional methods available to be used on fleet Vehicles i.e.: magnetic or other means of reusable materials (signage on back window).

The community subjects could deal with issues related to:

Health and Wellbeing
Community Information
Community Safety
Family Violence
Graffiti and Rubbish

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.4

FLAGS OF THE WORLD

MINUTE NO. 243

MOTION

MOVED: Cr. J. Williams
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

Council officers report back at a Council meeting in July 2014 how Council can control the advertising on our poles and posts all around the city.

The report should outline a possible strategy that could be put in place for poles and posts.

Cr. McCarthy proposed to the mover (Cr. Williams) and seconder (Cr. Li) that the second point be amended as follows. This was accepted by Cr. Williams and Cr. Li.

The report may outline a possible poles and posts beautification strategy.

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED: Cr. J. Williams
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

Council officers report back at a Council meeting in July 2014 how Council can control the advertising on our poles and posts all around the city.

The report may outline a possible poles and posts beautification strategy.

THE AMENDED MOTION WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME THE COUNCIL RESOLUTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. J. Williams
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT Council officers report back at a Council meeting in July 2014 on how Council can control the advertising on our poles and posts all around the city.

The report may outline a possible poles and posts beautification strategy.

CARRIED

12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

13. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.24 pm.