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AGENDA

Council meeting to be held
at Darebin Civic Centre,
350 High Street Preston
on Monday, 4 July 2016
at 7.00 pm.

Public question time will
commence shortly after 7.00 pm

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Agenda

1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Vince Fontana (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Bo Li

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Steven Tsitas

Cr. Angela Villella

Cr. Oliver Walsh

Cr. Julie Williams

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 20 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

Recommendation

That the Minutes of the Special Meetings of Council held on 27 and 28 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

PLEASE NOTE: Questions from the public must be submitted prior to the commencement of Council meetings.

- Questions can be submitted online up to 4.00 pm on the day of the meeting:
 - At darebin.vic.gov.au/publicquestiontime; or
 - By email to PQT@darebin.vic.gov.au
- Question can also be submitted in person:
 - At the counter of the Preston Customer Service, 274 Gower Street, Preston until 5.00 pm on the day of the meeting
 - At the Council Chamber from 6.45 pm to 7.00 pm on the day of the meeting

Council officers are available to assist residents in the preparation of questions between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm on the day of the Council meeting. For assistance please call (03) 8470 8888 and you will be directed to the appropriate department.

No questions will be accepted after 7.00 pm on the night of the Council meeting.

Questions that relate to items that are listed on the Agenda cannot be responded to.

The Mayor will read the question and provide a response. If a question cannot be answered at the meeting, a written response will be prepared and forwarded to the person raising the question.

Residents do not need to attend the meeting for a question to be answered.

A period of up to 30 minutes will be set aside to enable the Chairperson to read out the questions submitted by the public in accordance with the above guidelines and to provide responses.

- Council recently resolved to allow members of the public to ask their questions during Public Question Time from the meeting scheduled for 18 July 2016.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

6.1 DAREBIN LEISURE STRATEGY: ACTION PLAN 2015 – 2020 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Author: Manager Leisure and Public Realm

Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

This paper provides Council with an update on the implementation of the Darebin Leisure Strategy: 2015 – 2020 Action Plan.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 5 October 2015, Council resolved:

- (1) *Adopts the 2015 – 2020 Leisure Action Plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report.*
- (2) *Receives annual reports on how Council is achieving the targets.'*

Previous Briefing(s)

Councillor Briefings – 14 June 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

The Darebin Leisure Strategy: 2015 – 2020 Action Plan relates to:

- Council Plan: Healthy and Connected Community - Strategies - 2.6 Community health and fitness; and access to opportunities; 2.10 Social and physical connectedness; 2.13 equitable access for all; 2.15 equity in sport; 5.2 access and inclusion
- Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan: Goal 4 – Build healthy, safe and accessible places for people to play and connect; Goal 5 - Protect and promote Darebin people's physical health (5.3 – Increase regular physical activity for all)

Summary

The Darebin Leisure Strategy: 2015 – 2020 Action Plan (the Action Plan) was adopted by Council on 5 October 2015. The published plan is available at (**Appendix A**).

This report summarises achievements and outcomes from the first year of implementation of this five year Action Plan. Council will be provided with annual implementation updates throughout the life of the Action Plan, until 2020.

Recommendation

That Council note the report and the achievements against the Action Plan during 2015/2016.

Introduction

The Action Plan has a specific focus on increasing women and girl's participation in sport and recreation. This will be achieved through a multi-layer approach to improving programs, services and infrastructure to encourage and support female participation. The plan details that construction of additional sporting facilities for women in Darebin will be an important facilitator in achieving this aim.

The Action Plan is a detailed document that identifies projects and tasks which will enable Council to build upon the achievements delivered through the 2010–2014 Leisure Services Action Plan; and successfully deliver the Leisure Strategy 2010-2020.

Issues and Discussion

As set out in the Action Plan the Leisure Services team sets out to meet a set of key success measures by 2020. Progress against these indicators in 2015/2016 is detailed below:

INDICATOR	MEASURE	2015/2016 ACHIEVEMENTS
Achieve greater equity for women and girls in sport.	<p>15 per cent increase in female membership in organised sport by 2020</p> <p>At least 30 per cent of organised sport participants are women or girls by 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A multi-layer approach to increasing women's participation is underway which has resulted in significant increases in female participation across many sports including cricket, AFL and soccer. - FFV reported that women's participation in soccer in Darebin was 9.4 per cent higher than the state average in 2015. - AFL Vic reported a 46 per cent increase in youth girls' football teams in our local competition, from 25 in 2015 to 41 in 2016. - Supported the inaugural season of the Women's Cricket grade in the North Metro Cricket Association competition. This saw the establishment of two women's cricket teams in Darebin. - Council resolved to construct the Darebin Multi Sport Stadium which will result in a substantial increase in opportunities for women and girls to participate in sport and physical activity - Hosted a Darebin Women in Cricket initiative which gave away a female coaching course. - Council nominated three female administrators to take part in the first FFV 'Strengthening Female Administrators' leadership program. - Obtained funding through Cricket Victoria's 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Community Cup grants to host the Darebin women in Cricket initiative (a women's cricket program). - Created the resource <i>'Levelling the Playing Field – The Ball is in Her Court'</i>. This publication aims to support greater equity for women and girls in sport and recreation.
Increase junior's participation.	25 per cent increase in junior membership in organised sport by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Worked closely with Darebin women's sporting club to establish a girls Auskick competition. - Number of Darebin based youth girls AFL teams have doubled from 2015 to 2016.

INDICATOR	MEASURE	2015/2016 ACHIEVEMENTS
<p>Increase in the number of clubs demonstrating inclusive practices and attitudes.</p>	<p>50 per cent of clubs will achieve 'gold' performance subsidy status by 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implemented the sporting fees and charges policy (2014) which sees more clubs demonstrating inclusive activities and promotes optimised use of Darebin sporting facilities - Greater engagement with Darebin sporting clubs saw five sports development workshops held in 2015-2016. Themes included food handling and safety (October and May); GoodSports – responsible service of alcohol (November); Disability Inclusion (December) and Sports Club Sponsorship (June). Attendances, which ranged between 20 and 70 participants, have significantly increased from events held in past years. This demonstrates improved Council engagement with clubs and community. Attendance at these events attracts a discount for clubs on their seasonal access fees. - Leisure Services implemented an online IMS platform for all four sporting allocation types – Winter/Summer seasonal, 12 month seasonal and licence agreement clubs. The performance subsidy component of the new fees and charges policy was also integrated into the IMS system. Rollout of IMS has resulted in a substantial decrease in officer administration hours.
<p>Increase the percentage of Darebin residents exercising at least three times per week</p>	<p>Increase participation rate to the state average by 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expanded 'Get Active in Darebin' program which provides free family friendly leisure and recreation opportunities, with an increased number of programs provided in low socio economic areas. - Established a walking football program, a VicHealth funded initiative targeting older adults, in partnership with Melbourne City Football Club, Darebin Community Health and Council's Community Wellbeing team. - Installed outdoor exercise stations at AH Capp Reserve, Bundoora Park and TW Andrews Reserve. This now sees a total of nine locations with outdoor exercise equipment - Provided Come and Try sessions at six outdoor exercise equipment stations during the Spring Get Active in Darebin program. - Attracted a new capital works budget to install one additional outdoor exercise station per year.
<p>Continue to improve the functionality, flexibility and accessibility of sporting and recreational infrastructure in Darebin</p>	<p>Leisure Services will achieve a minimum of two pavilion redevelopments, two sports field lighting and two sports field safety fencing projects per year until 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of two sports field lighting systems at Capp and Robinson Reserves; new cricket nets at Moore Park, Ruthven and Zwar Reserves; completed pavilion redevelopments at Ruthven and Sullivan Reserves; and installed safety fencing at John Hall Reserve - Leisure Services attracted \$200,000 of external funding from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) for upgrade of sporting infrastructure in 2015-2016. These two projects will be undertaken in 2016-2017. - Leisure Services attracted \$346,000 in grant funding from SRV for redevelopment of three outdoor netball courts at Darebin Community Sports Stadium. - Leisure Services, in conjunction with Major Projects, submitted a grant application to the Federal National Stronger Regions Fund (NSRF) requesting a \$6.2 million grant for construction of a Darebin multi-sports stadium. - Opening of Ruthven Reserve community and sporting pavilion. The first of its type, this new space caters for both community bookings and sports club activities in a co-share social area.

INDICATOR	MEASURE	2015/2016 ACHIEVEMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiated co-share arrangements for McDonnell sporting pavilion; with joint use of this facility by two football clubs - Redevelopment of the Northcote Aquatic and Leisure Centre is now regarded as an organisational priority to take place within five to ten years. A number of Councillor workshops and a field tour of recent aquatic and leisure facility redevelopments in other LGA's has been undertaken.
Increase the availability of free and low cost sport and physical activities.	20 per cent increase in Council funded or supported sport or physical activity programs by 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 150 per cent increase for the Get Active in Darebin program in 2015-2016 budget through new initiatives process. - Average attendances per Get Active in Darebin seasonal program increased from 790 in 2014-2015 to an average of 1200 during spring and summer 2015-2016; an increase of over 50 per cent. - Increased number of weekly programs from an average of seven activities in 2014-2015 to an average of 16 during spring and summer 2015-2016. This represents an increase of 77 per cent in Council supported programs in one year. - Provided a minimum of one activity (in addition to walking groups) per seasonal program of Get Active in Darebin that is specifically aimed at older people. - Provided activities as part of 'Get Active in Darebin' at locations within target areas of East Preston and East Reservoir.

Other achievements from 2015/2016 include:

- Established a Darebin Leisure Facebook page and have steadily increased followers to now in excess of 300. This improves communication to stakeholders and clubs.
- Established *Behind the Goals*, a Leisure newsletter, with the first edition circulated in May 2016. This quarterly publication shares news, information and grant opportunities with Darebin clubs and sporting stakeholders.
- Undertook online consultation for the Darebin multi-sport stadium project which received in excess of 1200 responses.
- Implemented online IMS club portal for all four facility allocation types – Winter/Summer seasonal, 12 month seasonal and licence agreement. Integrated performance subsidy component onto IMS platform as well as the ability to log CAMMS maintenance requests.
- 350 per cent increase in attendance at the Leisure Services annual Sports Club Breakfast event held in December 2015.
- Council gave \$60,000 in grants to improve sporting infrastructure in Darebin. Projects undertaken included installation of solar panels to reduce electricity bills, double glazed windows and construction of flag pole to honour indigenous heritage at a sporting reserve.
- Increased focus on joint planning with other Councils, sporting bodies and State Government has seen the following initiatives progressed:
 - Darebin Multi-Sport Stadium project planning undertaken in conjunction with Yarra and Banyule Councils, State Government, La Trobe University and State Sporting Associations
 - Northern Employment Cluster Project in conjunction with Banyule Council, State Government, Melbourne Planning Authority and La Trobe University

- Northland Urban Renewal Project (NURP) in conjunction with Melbourne Planning Authority, La Trobe University, Banyule Council
- Olympic Park master plan development in conjunction with Banyule Council
- Established and developed partnerships with a number of schools including Northcote High School, Thornbury High School, Reservoir High School and Fairfield Primary School. Established feasibility to construct additional netball courts at these schools under funding available from the Victorian State Government. Projects to be finalised 2016/2017.

Continued implementation of the Action Plan over the next four years will see further progress against the key performance indicators set out in the plan. Council will be provided with an annual implementation update throughout the life of the action plan.

Options for Consideration

Council note the report and the achievements in the 2015/2016 year under the Action Plan.

Financial and Resource Implications

To meet the priority actions and key success measures outlined in the Strategy and Action Plan, funding for upgrades and improvements to sporting facilities and infrastructure will be made to the annual capital works budget.

Risk Management

There are no risk management issues associated with this report.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

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

Environmental Sustainability

Good practice in Environmentally Sustainability Design (ESD) is considered by officers during implementation of this action plan, particularly with regards to capital upgrades and infrastructure development.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Action Plan has been subject to the Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool to ensure diversity, human rights and equity considerations. A broad cross-range of community stakeholders and advisory groups were consulted in the drafting, development and finalisation of the action plans.

Other

Ongoing implementation of the Darebin Sporting Fees, Charges and Occupancy Agreement Policy drives many outcomes and achievements reported upon in this paper

Future Actions

- Annual implementation report to be presented to Council at the commencement of each financial year.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Darebin Sporting Clubs

Related Documents

- Darebin Leisure Strategy: 2015 – 2020 Action Plan (**Appendix A**)
- Council Minutes – 5 October 2015

Disclosure of Interest

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.

6.2 DAREBIN CHILD FRIENDLY CITY FRAMEWORK

Author: Manager Children, Families and Community

Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

This report presents the progress of the development of a Child Friendly City Framework for Darebin by the Advisory Committee. In late 2013 Council endorsed the establishment of the Darebin Child Friendly City Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee has met regularly and has been informed by the work of other Councils that are adopting a Child Friendly City approach, both in Victoria and internationally.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting of 16 December 2013 Council resolved.

"That:

.....

- (3) *Once the Darebin Child Friendly City Advisory Committee and the Terms of Reference has been established, the Committee define the age of the child and report back to a Councillor briefing session".*

Previous Briefing(s)

Councillor Briefings – 27 October 2014 and 14 June 2016

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Council Goal 2: Healthy and Connected Community

Summary

This report provides details of the process undertaken in developing a Darebin Child Friendly City Framework for Council's consideration, and outlines recommendations from the Child Friendly City Advisory Committee.

Recommendation

That:

- (1) Council endorses the Child Friendly City Framework attached as **Appendix A**.
- (2) A report on the progress of the Action Plan and the work achieved be provided to Council in 12 months.

Introduction

A Child Friendly City is the process of implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child by local communities, in partnership with children. The Child Friendly Cities Initiative aims to improve the lives of children in the region by recognizing and realising their rights and creating sustainable environments for them today and for future generations.

The Advisory Committee that has developed the framework is made up of Council officers and community representatives. Since the establishment of the Committee, it has been informed by the work of other Councils adopting a Child Friendly City approach, both in Victoria and internationally. This has provided a strong foundation for the development of the Child Friendly City Framework for Darebin with discussion, clarification and feedback, and has enabled all Committee members to provide input into the development of the Framework.

The success of the Child Friendly City Initiative lies in a common understanding that it is a whole of Council approach where the principles of a Child Friendly City underpin all policies, drive resource allocations and governance actions in the best interests of children.

Issues and Discussion

Child Friendly City Advisory Committee

The Darebin Child Friendly City Advisory Committee has documented advice to Council through the development of a Child Friendly City Framework.

The Darebin Child Friendly City Advisory Committee met initially in 2014 and then regularly between March 2015 and 2016. Across Council the current work of each Department that aligns with the principles of Child Friendly City has been documented as a demonstration of Council's current commitment to the Child Friendly City ethos. The Committee also mapped current child friendly practice in the municipality to identify gaps and opportunities for showcasing current child friendly practice.

Over the twelve months guest speakers were invited to present at meetings to deepen the collective understanding of the Advisory Committee on Child Friendly Cities. Speakers included: Dr Kyle Smith, Melbourne University; Dr Julie Rudner, La Trobe University Bendigo; Prof Karen Malone, Western Sydney University; Yvonne Rust City of Darebin; Shanaka Perera City of Darebin; and Penelope Somers, community representative on the Committee.

The current Advisory Committee will meet one further time to develop the first Action Plan and then a new Reference Group will be established to implement both the action plans and the framework.

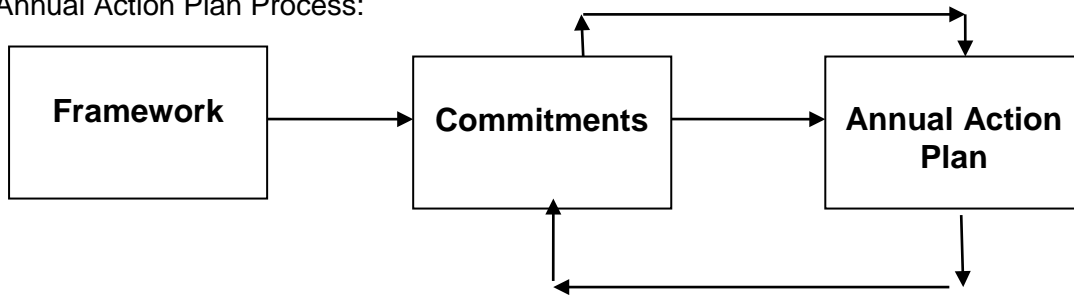
Child Friendly City Framework

The Framework is an acknowledgment that Darebin City Council is a child friendly city and will continue to uphold children's rights into the future. The work of the Advisory Committee, in developing the framework strengthens and assists in articulating the responsibility the City of Darebin has to our youngest citizens.

The Framework has three sections:

1. The Framework showcases some of the current work of Darebin Council that is child friendly to demonstrate a commitment across all Council Departments.
2. The Framework outlines Darebin's 'Child Friendly City' commitment for the future. This builds on the foundation that has been established, and acknowledges that a whole of Council approach to being a Child Friendly City will promote positive outcomes for children and in turn for the whole community.
3. From these commitments an annual action plan will be developed by the Darebin Child Friendly City Advisory Committee. This will be reviewed each year prior to the development of a new plan for the following year. This provides a mechanism to reflect on what has been achieved and develop new priorities from the commitments. (see Diagram One - Annual Action Plan Process)

Annual Action Plan Process:



Options for Consideration

Option 1: Proceed to Council endorsement of the Framework and development of an Action Plan

Option 2: Not proceeding with the work to date of the Child Friendly City Advisory Committee

The option of not proceeding would negate the work to date of the Child Friendly City Advisory Committee which Council endorsed in 2013 and this would increase the reputational risk to Council.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Financing and resourcing of the work of this committee will come from the Children, Families and Community Department and other departments across Council to enable representatives from Council to attend bi-annual Child Friendly Cities meetings and working group meetings as needed to ensure a whole of Council approach. Some actions from the plan may be referred to the annual budget process if additional resources are required.

Risk Management

The option of not proceeding would pose a risk to Darebin Council's reputation.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

There are no Economic Development impacts related to this report.

Environmental Sustainability

There are no Environmental Sustainability impacts related to this report.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Principles identified by Child Friendly City's clearly adheres to the City of Darebin Equity and Inclusion Policy 2012-2015, the Access and Inclusion Plan 2015-2019, Darebin Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2015, Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2015, Darebin Anti-Racism Strategy 2012-2015 and the Darebin Aboriginal Action Plan 2012-2015.

Other

There are no other policy implications related to this report.

Future Actions

- A report will be submitted to Council in June 2016 requesting endorsement of the Darebin Child Friendly City Framework

- Annual Action Plan will be developed from the Commitments (2016-2017) and priority areas will be selected.
- Establishment of a Reference Group to oversee annual action plans supported by working groups.

Consultation and Advocacy

- 10 Community representatives of Advisory Committee
 - Belinda Robson
 - Sarah Kitchen
 - Melanie Buscema – Moore
 - Helen Evdokimou – Mina
 - Anne Goodfellow
 - Charmain Galea
 - Fiona Glenn
 - Grace Licciardello – Dunne
 - Penelope Somers
 - Geoff Cleary
- Coordinator Community Wellbeing
- Community Safety Officer
- Safe Travel Officer
- Town Planner
- Manager Creative Culture
- Arts Participation Programmer
- Senior Coordinator Transport Management
- Manager Parks and Vegetation
- Coordinator Infrastructure Maintenance and Support
- Manager Aged and Disability
- Manager Leisure and Public Realm
- Manager Assets and Properties
- Climate Change Action Officer
- Coordinator Collections and Community Programs
- Council Business and Governance Officer
- Manager City Works

Related Documents

- Council Minutes – 16 December 2013

Disclosure of Interest

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.

6.3 COUNCILS SUPPORT TO SAFE SCHOOLS COALITION MEMBERS IN DAREBIN

Author: Manager Children, Families and Community

Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

This report follows Council's decision to become a Safe Schools Coalition (SSC) supporter in light of the nation-wide debate around SSC and the impact on the health and wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community, particularly vulnerable young people in Darebin.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting on 21 March 2016, Council resolved that:

“.....

- (3) *Council receive a report as soon as practicable on ways in which the council can assist in ensuring the ongoing operations and advocacy of the Safe Schools program in Darebin.*
- (4) *Officers should consult with relevant council committees and schools in Darebin as part of the report.”*

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

- Council Plan Goal 2: Healthy and Connected Community
- Equity and Inclusion Policy
- Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan

Summary

The Safe Schools Coalition (SSC) is an evidence-based whole-of-school program aiming to assist schools to become supportive and inclusive environments for all students, particularly those experiencing homophobic and transphobic bullying. The program drew criticism from some Members of Parliament prompting the Federal Government to review it.

In line with Darebin's commitment to social inclusion and community cohesion, Council expressed its support for SSC by becoming an official supporter organisation on 21 March, 2016.

This report looks at the developments surrounding SSC since 21 March and the ways in which Council can strengthen our support to SSC, in particular ways in which we can assist the SSC schools in Darebin.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Notes the report on Council's Support to Safe Schools Members in Darebin.
- (2) Continues to support schools in Darebin that belong to the Safe Schools Coalition by:
 - a) Continuing to advocate for, and make public statements of support in favour of, Safe Schools and our LGBTIQ community more generally as the need arises.
 - b) Council/Councillor representation at events organised by schools in support of same-sex attracted, intersex, trans and gender diverse (SSAITGD) students, staff and families;
 - c) Responding to schools' requests and providing ad hoc assistance with school projects related to the Safe Schools Coalition.

Introduction

SSC is a national coalition of organisations and schools working together to create safe and inclusive school environments for same sex attracted, intersex, trans and gender diverse (SSAITGD) students, staff and families. It is funded by the Australian Government and, in Victoria, by the Victorian Government. The program has been successfully operating in Victoria since 2010 and received Federal funding in 2013 to operate across Australia.

In the past few months this funding (and the program itself) has come under attack from some Coalition Members of Parliament prompting the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to order a review of the SSC program. The review found that the content of the SSC guidelines documents was consistent with the aims of the program (reducing homophobic and transphobic behaviour and prejudice) and found that the language and content were suitable for teachers, parents, and students. The Federal Government however decided to alter the program in key ways including:

- Only offering SSC in high schools;
- Requiring parental consent for their children to participate in the program;
- Restricting the use of some resources; and
- Not fund beyond 2017.

In response to these actions by the Federal Government, the Victorian State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to the program, confirming that the SSC will continue in Victoria with no alterations with the State Government continuing to fully fund the program in Victoria and with every government secondary school becoming a SSC member by the end of 2018.

Issues and Discussion

In line with a previous commitment to "stand up against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia, always" (Council resolution on 3 June 2013), Council joined the groundswell of support in favour of SSC and on 21 March 2016 reiterated support to Darebin's schools, young SSAITGD residents and all LGBTIQ residents more broadly by becoming a Safe Schools Coalition supporter.

Council has a good and supportive working relationship with our schools through the Darebin Education Committee, and a very strong commitment to our LGBTIQ residents, notably through the Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee (SSGDAC).

Following Council's resolution on 21 March 2016, both Committees were informed and asked for their views and advice on the ways in which Council could further support SSC.

The seven schools in Darebin who are SSC members (plus one school who became a supporter of Safe Schools in light of the debate) were also informed of Council's support to SSC (and to them) and asked how Council could best support them.

Given the very strong commitment to the SSC program at State Government level, the ongoing operations of SSC in Victoria does not seem to be at risk. The consulted schools did not express concern in that regard.

Most schools were deeply appreciative of Council's support and public stance and felt it did make a difference to their staff and students (and their families). Some used their school's newsletter to inform the school community of Council's stance. The presence of a Councillor at a school ceremony in favour of SSC was also appreciated and highlighted as one concrete, tangible way in which Council could support schools. One school enquired whether Council would be in a position to assist financially with the printing of a sexuality and gender diversity-inclusive banner to be displayed at the nearby stadium. A contribution will be made within existing budgets.

Beyond these practical ways to assist including:

- Councillor presence at events;
- Ad hoc support – including small-scale financial support at times - for projects; and
- Continued advocacy for LGBTIQ students, teachers and families.

schools did not express the need for further support from Council.

The SSGDAC recommended that Council continue advocating for SSC and in support of LGBTIQ residents more broadly, notably bearing in mind the potential plebiscite on marriage equality. The committee also suggested Council should advocate for a more preventative approach that would look at ways to encourage primary schools to tackle gender bias and stereotype, which would also benefit gender equality and prevention of violence against women and become more inclusive of gender diversity.

Options for Consideration

Council continues supporting SSC, our Darebin schools, SSAITGD young people and LGBTIQ residents, notably through public advocacy, Councillor engagement with schools and ad hoc project support when requested.

Financial and Resource Implications

This report has no financial implications. Ad hoc support to schools will be provided within existing resources and budgets.

Risk Management

This recommendation is aligned with and builds on many of Council's policies and commitments and as such bears no specific risk.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

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

Environmental Sustainability

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

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The current debate on SSC impacts on human rights, equity and inclusion. By supporting SSC and our LGBTIQ residents Council lives up to our human rights obligations, including promoting freedom from discrimination and our equity and inclusion principles.

Other

There are no other policy implications from this report

Future Actions

- Continue to support Darebin schools in a variety of ways (see recommendation)
- Further promote, and communicate on, Council's support to Safe Schools Coalition
- Continue to advocate for our LGBTIQ residents as the need arises (notably in light of upcoming national debates, including the potential plebiscite on marriage equality)

Consultation and Advocacy

- Darebin schools who belong to the Safe Schools Coalition:
 - Northcote High School
 - Northcote Primary School
 - Northern College of the Arts and Technology
 - The Pavillion, East Preston
 - Reservoir High School
 - Thornbury High School
 - William Ruthven Secondary College
- SSC supporter Reservoir East Primary School
- Darebin Education Advisory Committee
- Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee
- Diversity Policy Officer
- Community Renewal Officer
- Human Rights Officer
- Coordinator Equity and Diversity

Related Documents

- Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action Plan 2012-2017
- Council Minute s- 21 March 2016

Disclosure of Interest

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.

6.4 UPDATE ON GREEN STREET PEDESTRIAN PATH

Author: Senior Coordinator Transport Management

Reviewed By: Director Assets and Business Services

Report Background

On 7 December 2015 a petition was submitted regarding the Green Street pedestrian path to Council, this resulted in the following resolution:

'That the petition:

"Create a safe and legal thoroughfare for the Community. We the residents of Westgarth petition Darebin Council to pave and fence the informal Green Street pedestrian path.

This path is regularly used by residents to access east-west along the railway line, Dennis Station and the primary school, shops, cafes and parks over the railway line. By restricting access, a long standing amenity and important access to public transport has been significantly diminished.

Formalising this path will make it the same as the other public thoroughfares at Knowles, Harper and Rathmines Streets.

I urge the Darebin Council to indefinitely lease the land from PTV/Vic Track so that they can then create a safe and legal thoroughfare to Dennis Station and beyond by early 2016."

be tabled and a report be presented to Council at its February 2016 meeting.'

Previous Council Resolutions

In response to the petition, a report was presented to Council on 1 February 2016 providing information on the status of the Green Street pedestrian path. At this meeting Council resolved:

'That:

- (1) Council continues to advocate on behalf of the community to retain pedestrian access through the VicTrack owned land at the end of Green Street, Northcote.*
- (2) The Mayor writes to the Minister for Transport, Member for Northcote, CEO of VicTrack and CEO of Metro Trains Melbourne requesting that VicTrack owned land at the end of Green Street be leased to Council at no cost and that these agencies consider contributing to the cost of constructing a path as per the community petition.*
- (3) Council receives a further report in time for the 2016/2017 Budget deliberations regarding costs associated with leasing and path construction.*
- (4) Council explore whether the petitioning for a Board of Inquiry to be established by the Governor in Council under section 9 of the Local Government Act, if there is no formal dispute resolution mechanism available under the Act which regulates VicTrack.'*

This report responds to that resolution.

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Council briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Strategies:

- Darebin Transport Strategy (DTS)
- Darebin Safe Travel Strategy (DSTS)

Summary

- In October 2015, Council received reports that signs were erected around the Green Street pedestrian path (between Green Street and Dennis Train Station), indicating that the path was closed to the public.
- In response, a petition was submitted to Council calling for Council to lease the land and formalise the path.
- Subsequent investigations by Council have identified that the signs have been removed.
- Council officers have investigated the merits of formalising the path. This investigation indicates that whilst the route offers a local connection to the train station, it does not form part of a strategic link in the pedestrian network.
- In line with item 2 of the Council resolution, Council has written to the Chief Executive of VicTrack, copied to the Minister for Public Transport, Member for Northcote and CEO of Metro Trains advocating to retain the access along this route, requesting the land be leased at no cost, and that these agencies consider contributing to the cost of constructing a path. VicTrack have agreed to waive the assessment fee, and charge only a nominal licence fee.
- Council has applied to VicTrack to lease the land from the end of Green Street to the rail reserve, and along the rail reserve to Simpson Street, in order to construct a 1.5m granitic sand pedestrian path with a 1.8m fence along the rail line. VicTrack have progressed the application, indicating they will support it, and MTM approvals are now required.
- The cost of formalising the path would be in the order of \$115,000 and it is expected that the design and construction phases would be in the order of 12 months.
- If approvals for a path are obtained from the relevant agencies, a submission will need to be made to the 2017/18 capital works budget to construct the path.

Recommendation

That Council note this report on the Green Street Pedestrian Path.

Introduction

In October 2015, Council received reports that signs were erected around the Green Street pedestrian path (between Green Street and Dennis Train Station), indicating that the path was closed to the public. This path is shown in Figure 1 below as a yellow dashed line.



Figure 1 Extract from VicTrack's Railmap website

In response to the closure, a petition was submitted to Council calling for Council to lease the land and formalise the path. Subsequent investigations by Council have identified that the signs have been removed.

At the time of the previous report to Council, it was understood that VicTrack and MTM did not have safety concerns and would maintain the current public access requirements. It has since been established that in their view the informal access is within the "danger zone", 3m of existing rail tracks and cannot be used in its current state.

Issues and Discussion

Strategic Context

Council officers have investigated the merits of formalising the path. This investigation indicates that whilst the route offers a local connection to the train station, it does not form part of a strategic link in the pedestrian network.

The Draft Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) has been developed to determine the strategic merit of each element of our pedestrian network and will ultimately inform the Development of the Darebin Walking Strategy. The draft PPN was checked to ascertain the status of the route. While the route provides links to and between Dennis train station and important destinations such as Westgarth Primary School, Station Street Fairfield and High Street Westgarth, the PPN does not identify it as a primary or secondary route, although South Crescent, to the north of the railway, is considered a primary route.

Despite this, the high volumes of submissions supporting the project are evidence that there is considerable community investment in the path and a strong desire to formalise the path.

Need for a VicTrack lease and formal path

In order to formalise the path, Council needs to enter into a lease arrangement with the land owner (VicTrack).

Council has contacted VicTrack to discuss leasing the land from the end of Green Street to the rail reserve, and along the rail reserve to Simpson Street, in order to construct a 1.5m granitic sand pedestrian path with a 1.8m fence along the rail line. VicTrack have indicated they will support it, however MTM approvals are now required.

The cost of formalising the path would be at least \$115,000 (\$50,000 for design and approvals, and at least \$65,000 for construction), and it is expected that design and construction will take in the order of 18 months, given the extensive process required by MTM to access their land.

Stakeholder buy-in

Council has written to the Chief Executive of VicTrack, copied to the Minister for Public Transport, Member for Northcote and CEO of Metro Trains advocating to retain the access along this route, requesting the land be leased at no cost, and that these agencies consider contributing to the cost of constructing a path.

The General Manager of the VicTrack Property Group responded and agreed to provide the land for a nominal fee and waiver the VicTrack assessment fee as their contribution to the shared path. These costs would typically be in the order of \$750 one off assessment fee, and \$300 per year annual lease fee.

Options for Consideration

It is recommended that Council proceed with path design in the 2016/2017 (budget dependant), and proceed with the construction phase in 2017/18 should future budget be allocated, and leasing agreements be achieved.

Should Council choose not to proceed with this project it is unclear that MTM will formalise a path closure in the future.

Council may also choose to continue to advocate to the State Government to support the project, given the primary use of the path is likely to be by local residents accessing the train station. However, given the relatively low volume of users, it may not be viewed by the State Government as a priority.

Financial and Resource Implications

- Recent approvals and works on MTM land have been taking between 12 and 18 months to progress. It is expected that to complete just the design phase of this path and receive approval from MTM to proceed will take 12 months. The design phase is expected to cost \$50,000.
- Once full approval has been granted, it is expected the construction phase will take 7 months, given the construction permits that are required. It should be noted that while VicTrack have indicated that there is unlikely to be contamination, Council may need to manage the disposal of contaminated soil should it be found. The construction phase is expected to cost at least \$65,000.
- Given Council may be leasing this land from VicTrack, Council will be liable for future maintenance, including path and mowing of surrounds. The cost of this will need to be included in future Operating budgets.

Risk Management

As Council does not own or lease the land, we do not presently have a risk of liability should there be an accident on the informal pathway. Entering in to a lease arrangement and formalising the path would increase Council's risk exposure as we would be accepting liability should an incident occur.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

There are no Economic Development impacts related to this report.

Environmental Sustainability

The DTS includes the objective, “to increase the role of sustainable transport modes” and the DSTS includes the objective, “to encourage more people to adopt sustainable modes of travel by improving infrastructure and amenity”. While improved path facilities generally promote active (and sustainable) transport use, surfacing the path will have numerous negative impacts, including use of materials and energy, and creation of impervious surface.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion impacts related to this report.

Other

There are no other impacts related to this report.

Future Actions

Subject to the 2016/2017 Budget, including this item:

- Council will work with VicTrack to secure leasing arrangements, MTM to seek their approval for the project, and progress the design approval phase of the project.
- Community members who wrote to Council will be provided with an update on the project progress.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Property Manager, Darebin Council
- Risk and Insurance Advisor, Darebin Council
- Team Leader Transport Engineering, Darebin Council
- Team Leader Transport Strategy, Darebin Council
- Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM)
- VicTrack

Related Documents

- *Transport Integration Act*
- Darebin Transport Strategy
- Darebin Safe Travel Strategy
- Draft Darebin Principle Pedestrian Network
- Council Minutes – 7 December 2015, 1 February 2016 and 20 June 2016

Disclosure of Interest

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.

6.5 INSTRUMENT OF APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORISATION TO APPOINT AUTHORISED OFFICERS TO ENFORCE THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 1987**AUTHOR:** Coordinator Council Business**REVIEWED BY:** Manager Corporate Governance and Performance**Report Background**

The Local Government Act 1989 provides for the appointment of Authorised Officers for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of any Act, regulations or local laws which relate to the functions and powers of the Council.

The Chief Executive Officer, by authority conferred by instrument of delegation from Council dated 17 March 2015, makes these appointments. Maddocks Lawyers' model *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* developed for Victorian councils is used for this purpose.

Maddocks Lawyers have a separate *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* specifically for authorised officers appointed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* provides for councils (rather than CEO's by delegation) to appoint officers by a resolution.

This report therefore presents for Council approval the *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* to appoint authorised officers for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 18 April 2016, Council resolved:

'That in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147 (4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and section 232 of the Local Government Act 1989, Darebin City Council resolves that:

- a) *The member of Council staff referred to in the Instrument attached as Appendix A be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.*
- b) *The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.'*

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Open and Accountable Democracy

Summary

This report seeks approval by Council for Council staff to be appointed and authorised to enforce the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Recommendation

THAT in the exercise of the powers conferred by section 147 (4) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and section 232 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Darebin City Council resolves that:

- a) The member of Council staff referred to in the Instrument attached as **Appendix A** be appointed and authorised as set out in the instrument.
- b) The instrument comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to the instrument, and remains in force until Council determines to vary or revoke it.

Introduction

Section 224 of the *Local Government Act 1989* provides for the appointment of Authorised Officers for the purposes of the administration and enforcement of any Act, regulations or local laws which relate to the functions and powers of the Council.

The Chief Executive Officer, by authority conferred by instrument of delegation from Council dated 17 March 2015, makes these appointments. Maddocks Lawyers' model *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* developed for Victorian councils is used for this purpose.

Maddocks Lawyers have a separate *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* specifically for authorised officers appointed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* provides for councils (rather than CEO's by delegation) to appoint officers by a resolution.

Issues and Discussion

Appointment of Authorised Officers to enforce the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

This *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation*, specifically for authorised officers appointed under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, provides for councils (rather than CEO's by delegation) to appoint officers by a resolution, pursuant to section 147 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. The Instrument also includes the general appointment provision in section 232 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to commence proceedings in a council's name.

Section 188 (2) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* provides that councils cannot delegate the power to authorise officers for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act*.

As the authorised officers involved enforce several other Acts and regulations other than the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Maddocks Lawyers' other general *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation* covering these Acts and regulations will continue to operate in tandem with the separate *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987 only)* where authorised officers are appointed by Council resolution.

Options for Consideration

There are no options associated with this information.

Financial and Resource Implications

Nil

Risk Management

If Council does not confer authorisations, officers will not be able to fulfil their day to day statutory and operational requirements enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

Policy Implications

Environmental Sustainability

Nil

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Nil

Economic Development

Nil

Other

The appointment and authorisation of officers for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* enables day to day statutory and operational decisions to be made in relation to this Act. The proposed *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)* is based on the model developed by Maddocks Lawyers

Future Actions

- *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)* to be signed and sealed by Council.
- New authorised officer appointments for the purposes of enforcing the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to be made by Council resolution.

Consultation and Advocacy

- Coordinator Statutory Planning

Related Documents

- Proposed *Instrument of Appointment and Authorisation (Planning and Environment Act 1987)* – **Appendix A**
- Delegations and Authorisations Service – Maddocks, Lawyers
- Council Minutes – 5 March 2012, 4 June 2012, 17 September 2012, 10 December 2012, 18 February 2013, 15 April 2013, 6 May 2013, 7 October 2013, 6 November 2013, 17 February 2014, 19 May 2014, 17 November 2014, 16 March 2015, 17 August 2015, 7 September 2015, 23 November 2015 and 18 April 2016.

Disclosure of Interest

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.

7. CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSES TO NOTICES OF MOTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 VISION SUPER'S INVESTMENTS IN FOSSIL FUEL AND ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES

Author: Director Corporate Services

Reviewed By: Chief Executive

Report Background

This report is in response to Notice of Motion No. 263 from the Council meeting held on 7 March 2016

Previous Council Resolution

"That Council resolves to:

- (1) *Write to Vision Super expressing Council's concern about Vision Super's investments in fossil fuel and associated industries, ask that Vision Super share with Council what plans they have in place for divestment from fossil fuel companies and infrastructure and what steps Vision Super is taking to manage climate risk for its members including:*
 - a) *Quantify and manage climate risk to its current portfolio*
 - b) *Disclose fossil fuel exposed holdings to its members*
 - c) *Divest from pure play fossil fuel companies*
 - d) *Increase investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency*
 - e) *Engage with diversified companies and companies at risk and encourage them to phase out fossil fuel exposure*
 - f) *Minimisation of fossil fuel exposure in portfolio by divesting from diversified companies that continue to do business in fossil fuels without a plan for avoiding stranded assets and climate risk.*
 - g) *Ongoing reporting to members of climate risk and fossil fuel exposure as the above steps are undertaken.*
 - h) *Justify their high fees in comparison to other funds.*
- (2) *Write to all Councils in Victoria, the Australian Services Union (ASU), Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) outlining Council's position on fossil fuel divestment and its support for divestment from fossil fuel investments by superannuation companies and request their support for this action."*

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Lead and work with our community and partners to achieve a rapid transition to an environmentally sustainable city

Summary

As resolved on 7 March 2016 a letter was written to all Councils in Victoria, the Australian Services Union (ASU), Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) outlining Council's position on fossil fuel divestment and its support for divestment from fossil fuel investments by superannuation companies and request their support for this action.

This report provides the responses that have been received as at 1 June 2016.

Recommendation

That Council receive and note the report on Vision Super's investments in fossil fuel and associated industries.

Introduction

Who is Vision Super?

Vision Super is one of Australia's leading superannuation funds. The fund has a long history, dating back to 1947, when they started providing superannuation benefits to employees in local government and the water industry.

Vision Super was originally known as Local Authorities Super and later became Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (LASF). They were established and operated by the Victorian government until 1 July 1998 when the Local Authorities Super Act was repealed and LASF became a regulated fund.

As a regulated fund, Vision Super is now governed by its trust deed and must comply with superannuation legislation. It is subject to supervision by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), who ensures Australia's financial institutions manage risk prudently, minimising the likelihood of financial losses to depositors, policy holders and superannuation fund members.

Fossil fuels: their place in society

While writing this report it was worthwhile understanding the place that fossil fuels have in our society. Fossil fuels currently provide nearly 80% of the world's primary energy, and – like it or not – their contribution looks likely to increase in absolute if not relative terms for many decades.

Following the COP21, the United Nations climate change conference, the nations of the world agreed that in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, global warming must be limited to "well below" a 2°C increase above pre-industrial temperatures. This target is reflected in Vision Super's Environment Social and Governance policy (ESG).

To meet this 2° C target, the nations of the world need to refrain from extracting and using the majority of the planet's known fossil fuel reserves. Specifically, 80% of global coal reserves, 50% of gas reserves, and about 30% of oil reserves must remain untouched, according to a recent study.¹

Although the chief driver of greenhouse gas emissions continues to be the burning of these fossil fuels, additional levels of fossil fuel exposure need to be considered. These can be divided into three major divisions, upstream, midstream and downstream.

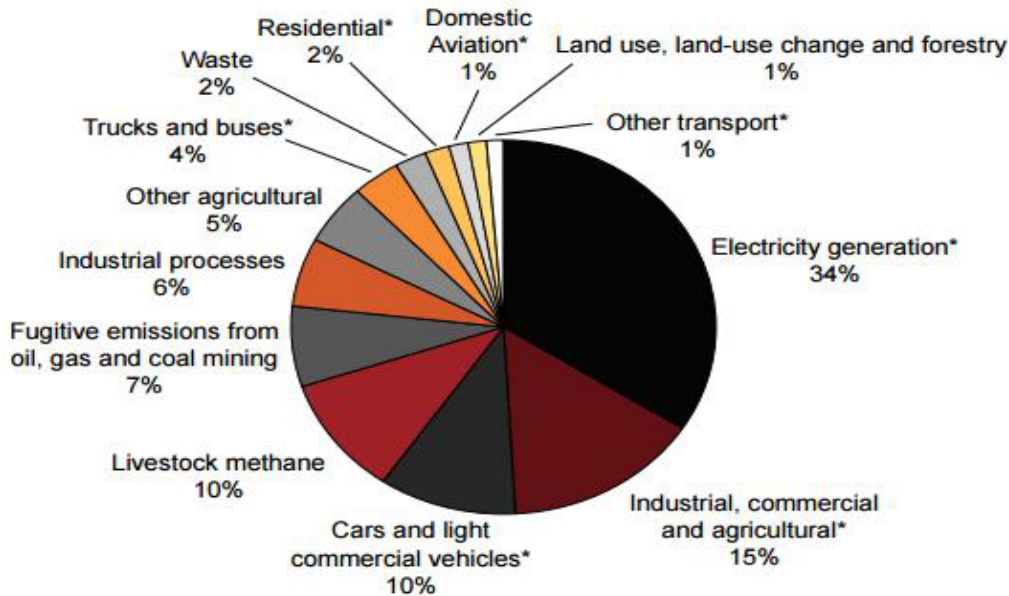
- Upstream - the extraction from the ground
- Midstream - transportation and movement
- Downstream - users of fossil fuels

¹ Dr Christophe McGlade, [UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources](#)

In Australia, our greenhouse gas emissions do not result from energy production alone. Therefore, asset owners, policy makers and advocacy groups need to work together, rather than being divisive, to achieve a global solution to climate change.

Australian’s greenhouse gas emissions

Figure 1.1: Australia’s emissions come from a range of sources
Per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions, 2012-13



*Notes: *Emissions from direct combustion of fuels. Does not sum to 100 per cent because of rounding. Sectoral breakdown differs to that typically shown in Australian Government reports.*

Source: Department of the Environment (2013); Grattan analysis

Climate change risk

Climate change is factored into Vision Super’s investment strategies using the following principals:

- Overall fiduciary responsibility to members
- Environmental and ethical concerns
- Concerns about the long-term business case for investment in high-carbon assets

Vision Super encourages an orderly transition to a low carbon economy by engaging with a wide range of stakeholders. Transitioning to a low carbon economy requires cooperation from industry, government and the public, and there are a number of factors they think that need to be addressed to achieve success.

- A price on carbon – it is reasonable to expect that the cost of generating and using fossil fuels will rise as there is a more stringent approach to incorporating the externalities associated with carbon emissions through financial penalties. This may arise through the introduction of carbon taxes, through market based mechanisms and/or through changes to fossil fuel subsidies.
- Increasing demand for energy – energy demand is expected to rise as a result of population growth, an increasing number of people entering the middle classes, and initiatives to provide energy for all. This is expected to be tempered slightly by energy efficiency, but will increase at a global level overall.

- A change in energy sources – a movement away from electricity generated by fossil fuels is essential in achieving a low carbon society, however, existing infrastructure means that fossil fuel usage is expected to continue over the next two decades.

The United Nations PRI and COP21

Vision Super became an early signatory to the UN-backed Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI) and signed the Paris Pledge for Action - an initiative aligned with the 2015 UN Climate Talks in Paris encouraging investors to strive for carbon emission reductions, with a goal of being carbon neutral.

The measures adopted by Vision Super to manage climate change risk means they already have a significantly smaller exposure to the fossil fuel sector than the vast majority of their competitors.

Vision Super has openly acknowledged the financial risk of climate change and its relevance for long-term sustainable growth. They continue to identify a clear approach for a transition to a low carbon economy.

Vision Super's response to the Mayors correspondence dated 22 April 2016

In recognising and responding to the threat posed by climate change, Vision Super has adopted an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policy which commits them to supporting a global transition to a low carbon economy. This policy is available at www.visionsuper.com.au/images/policies/ESG_policy.pdf

The concrete measures adopted by Vision Super to manage climate change risk means they already have a significantly smaller exposure to the fossil fuel sector than the vast majority of their competitors.

Active steps taken to manage change climate risk:

The following has been provided by Vision super in response to the questions asked by council:

Question: Quantify and manage climate risk to its current portfolio.

Vision Super is currently drafting its Annual Corporate Responsibility Report which will provide employers and members with a scorecard of what we're doing to build a diverse workforce, engage with our communities and ensure sustainable operations.

The report, which will be included in our 2016 Annual Report, will disclose our progress on fossil fuel divestment and fossil fuel exposure as part of a comprehensive ESG reporting dashboard.

In addition, fund managers retained by Vision Super have been asked to give reasonable consideration to ESG risks and report carbon investment in their portfolios. This will be disclosed in our first Corporate Responsibility Report.

Question: Disclose fossil fuel exposed holdings to its members.

The Fund's fossil fuel exposure will form part of the ESG reporting dashboard.

Question: Divest from pure play fossil fuel companies.

We are already divesting from pure play fossil fuel companies. We introduced new low carbon benchmarks to the indexed component of our share investments in 2015, moving our international shares index portfolio to the global MSCI Low Carbon Index.

This means we now invest in overseas companies that have a 70% lower carbon exposure than the rest of the market. We have also moved our Australian shares index portfolio to the IFM Low Carbon Australian Shares fund, reducing our exposure to Australian companies with a high carbon risk.

We terminated contracts with two of our largest active equity managers and appointed Perpetual, an independent and diversified financial services group, to manage a large \$300m low carbon equity mandate. We determined that the case for any material direct investment should include a reasonable estimate of the impact of phasing out fossil fuel usage consistent with limiting global warming to no more than 2°C above the pre-industrial global mean temperature.

However, we think a more nuanced approach, rather than immediate divestment, is needed. It is extremely difficult to tackle climate change via divestment alone, without decreasing the share price of carbon-exposed equities, which affects the outcomes for our members.

Divestment is a blunt instrument and essentially shifts risk between asset owners, unless all asset owners divest at the same time. For this reason, divestment in itself doesn't change the fossil fuel based energy system.

As an example, a global tobacco divestment campaign has had some success, but global tobacco production is now higher than ever.

Vision Super will continue to consider the best interest of our members while also working towards a smooth and orderly transition to a low carbon economy.

We will continue to play a central role in driving engagement strategies that include:

- Engagement with policy makers
- Engagement with fossil fuel companies
- Holding fossil fuel companies accountable on capital allocation and dividend policies
- Relentlessly question fossil fuel companies on how they are managing new investment opportunities - could they be better off returning capital to investors?
- Demand stress tests of investment opportunities and call for alignment around the new cop 21 targets
- Put pressure on the banks' lending to companies with exposure to fossil fuels, given low return prospects
- If alarm bells ring, call for higher dividends payout ratios and decrease investment in new fossil fuel projects.

Question: Increase investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Vision Super has directly invested in renewable energy for over a decade. In 2006 we built and still own 100% of the Vision Super Wonthaggi Wind Farm, an asset which provides wind power for around 7,000 Victorian households.

The Vision Super Wonthaggi Wind Farm operates well, but unfortunately, the renewable energy sector in Australia has been affected by extreme swings in Federal Public Policy that has destroyed a good deal of value.

We also held a large holding in Pacific Hydro (a hydro power company). This asset was sold after a period of significant under-performance caused by adverse weather events in Chile, lower energy demand in Australia and lack of Federal Government support in the sector.

Vision Super is actively looking to invest in sectors and companies actively involved in the transition to a low carbon economy, including; firms investing in carbon efficiency, energy efficiency, materials efficiency and water use efficiency. All such investments must meet our risk and return expectations and be in the best interests for our members.

We remain an ardent supporter of investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency and have been recognised with an Infinity green award by the largest ratings agency for super, SuperRatings (methodology attached).

Question: Engage with diversified companies and companies at risk and encourage them to phase out fossil fuel exposure.

We vote our shares as displayed in a report to members which is available on our website and also engage with companies to encourage an orderly transition to a low carbon energy system. We engage directly as a Fund and indirectly via ACSI (Australian Council of Super Investors), and Independent Shareholder Services (ISS). This involves engagement on climate risk with policy makers, fossil fuel exposed companies and banks (e.g. AGL and ANZ in recent months).

Question: Minimisation of fossil fuel exposure in portfolio by divesting from diversified companies which continue to do business in fossil fuels without a plan for avoiding stranded assets and climate risk.

Please see response to questions above.

Question: Ongoing reporting to members of climate risk and fossil fuel exposure as the above steps are undertaken.

Portfolio disclosure and ongoing reporting on fossil fuel exposure will be available via our Corporate Responsibility Report dashboard. This report will disclose our ongoing progress on fossil fuel divestment and residual fossil fuel exposure.

Question: Justify their high fees in comparison to other funds.

With respect to your request to 'justify Vision Super's higher fees compared to other Funds' we are extremely surprised by this question. We charge members a fee of \$473 in fees which remain lower than the average super fund. Every super fund is required to disclose the fees for a member with a balance of \$50,000 under the enhanced fee disclosure regime regulated by ASIC.

SuperRatings currently has the average super fee for a member with this balance at \$645¹. By way of comparison, a retail master trust product Future Super - which is promoted as a "fossil fuel free" fund by Market Forces charges \$1,043 in annual fees on a \$50,000 balance. Over a 35 year working life this difference in fees can have a significant effect on final retirement balances.

Conclusion

Climate Change is a complex issue that Vision Super has been tackling for a number of years. The Fund has been recognised for its commitment to this challenge and remains among the leaders in the industry.

Vision Super has a fiduciary responsibility and is charged with seeking strong risk adjusted returns for their members. These are members of the accumulation plan (\$5b) where investment risk resides with the member, and for their defined benefit members (\$2.7b), where investment risk rests with Councils and ultimately ratepayers.

Risk from climate change is one risk among many that the trustees have to factor into their strategic asset allocation and investment manager selection decisions. It is a consideration that Vision Super believes in and is committed to. They will continue to meet both their responsibilities to our members, stakeholders and the broader community by:

- Increasing their disclosure of fossil fuel exposed assets,
- Engaging with and divesting from (where appropriate) pure play fossil fuel companies, and
- Continuing to look for opportunities for investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Issues and Discussion

There were no issues identified in this report

Options for Consideration

Do nothing; or

That Council receives and notes the report

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no Financial and Resource Implications identified in this report

Risk Management

No risks were identified in this report

Policy Implications**Economic Development**

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

Environmental Sustainability

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

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no factors in this report which impact on human rights, equity and inclusion.

Other

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

Future Actions

Nil

Consultation and Advocacy

Vision Super

Related Documents

Council Minutes – 7 March 2016

Disclosure of Interest

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.

7.2 FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENTS POLICY

Author: Director Corporate Services

Reviewed By: Chief Executive

Report Background

This report is in response to Notice of Motion No. 270 from the Council meeting held on 7 March 2016

Previous Council Resolution

“That Council receives a report in May on a draft Fossil Fuel Divestment Strategy, drawing on the work of other councils, such as Moreland City Council.”

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Lead and work with our community and partners to achieve a rapid transition to an environmentally sustainable city

Summary

As resolved on 7 March 2016 to receive a report on a draft Fossil Fuel Divestment strategy and following investigations of the work of other councils it was decided to prepare a Fossil Fuel Investment Policy and bring this to Council for its determination.

Recommendation

That Council adopt the Fossil Fuel Investment Policy attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

Introduction

Darebin City Council is concerned about the impact of that the consumption of fossil fuels has on greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, Council recognises the role of financial institutions in financing new fossil fuel projects in Australia.

The Notice of Motion indicated that Council receives a report on a fossil fuel divestment strategy. However, it was felt for affirmative action in regard to the Notice of Motion that a policy be prepared for consideration of Council.

This Policy, if adopted will guide how Council invests its funds to ensure that it does not support the fossil fuel industry directly and provides a mechanism to influence investment by financial institutions away from the fossil fuel industry.

The objective of the policy is to ensure Council will move away from directly investing in any company for whom the extraction, production, refining, or distribution of fossil fuels forms a core part of their business strategy, nor in any company whose principle business involves providing infrastructure or services to companies previously mentioned.

To adopt a positive screening approach for Council’s investment with financial institutions:

- (a) Actively invest with fossil free financial institutions within the Darebin City Council Investment Policy parameters; and

- (b) Advocate for fossil free financial institutions to improve their credit rating and financial rate of return.

In essence, the policy is constrained by the Local Government Act 1989 as well as Council's Investment policy. However, the policy is targeted at where Council invests, borrows and transacts with financial institutions.

The following is the proposed policy position on these three areas:

- Investments

Council's Investment Strategy will give preference to ADIs that state they do not finance fossil fuel projects if the investment transaction is compliant with Council's Investment Policy and the rate of investment is within 0.05 percentage points when compared against other investments available to Council at the time.

- Borrowings

Preference will be given to non-fossil fuel aligned financial institutions if the rate of investment applicable to the loan is no worse than other interest rates available to Council at the time.

- Transactional Banking Services

Preference will be given to non-fossil fuel aligned financial institutions to undertake transactional banking services if the financial institutions tendered "value for money" rate for the services provided is no worse than other options available to Council at the time

Issues and Discussion

There were no issues identified in this report

Options for Consideration

- Do nothing; or
- That Council adopts the Fossil Fuel Investment Policy; or
- That Council adopts the Fossil Fuel Investment Policy with amendment.

Financial and Resource Implications

There may be financial implications if Council amends the policy as the rate of interest may be higher or lower as the case may be for investments and borrowings may be less advantageous to Council and Council should as far as practicable maximise its investment return and minimise borrowing costs

There are no Resource Implications identified in this report

Risk Management

No risks were identified in this report

Policy Implications

Economic Development

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

Environmental Sustainability

Adopting the Fossil Fuel Investment Policy would further demonstrate Council's continued commitment to environmental sustainability and provide a framework to encourage environmental sustainability of the financial institutions provide banking services to Council.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no factors in this report which impact on human rights, equity and inclusion.

Other

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

Future Actions

Nil

Consultation and Advocacy

- Moreland City Council
- Banyule City Council
- Whittlesea City Council
- Nillumbik City Council
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Market Forces
- Various Council Websites

Related Documents

Council Minutes – 7 March 2016

Disclosure of Interest

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.

7.3 DAREBIN'S POP-UP PARKS

Author: Manager Leisure and Public Realm

Reviewed By: Director Community Development

Report Background

This report responds to the Notice of Motion No. 268, resolved at the Council meeting held on 7 March 2016 and the petition tabled at Council on 4 April 2016.

Previous Council Resolution

At the Council meeting on 7 March 2016 Council resolved:

"That:

- (1) Council put a freeze on any further pop up parks in the City of Darebin.*
- (2) Council receive a report on the current unexpended funds in this budget year and be redirected to increasing our urban forest canopy cover with increased plantings on council owned and publicly owned parklands and open space.*
- (3) Council officers report back to council on the location of any additional plantings across the city.*
- (4) The report also contains the year to date expenditure on the pop up program."*

At the Council meeting on 4 April 2016 the following petition as tabled and referred to the Chief Executive:

"We, the undersigned, live and work in the area of Preston known as "The Junction." We are committed to working alongside the Darebin City Council in the proposed plans to convert this part of Preston into a more pedestrian friendly neighbourhood where the traffic is calmer and the sense of community is enhanced by the planting of trees and general up-grade of the amenities.

We understand the pop-up park at the corner of Oakover and High Street was a temporary fixture and that the park would be moved at the beginning of April 2016.

We would like to ask the Darebin Council to consider leaving the slip road for vehicles turning left from High Street from High Street into Oakover Road closed to traffic for the time being to allow for further community discussion about the future use of this space."

Previous Briefing(s)

The matter has been considered at the following Council briefing and meeting sessions:

- Citizen's Jury Councillor Briefing Sessions: Conducted in 2014
- Citizen's Jury Project: Adoption, Council Meeting 15 September 2014
- Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan: Councillor briefings
- Junction Urban Master Plan: Councillor briefings
- Pop-up parks at Broadway and within JUMP have been the subject of 11 items in Councillor e-Bulletins distributed across 2015 and 2016.

Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Council Plan: Goal 1 - Vibrant City and Innovative Economy; Goal 2 - Healthy and Connected Community; Goal 3 - Sustainable and Resilient Neighbourhoods and Goal 4 - Thriving and Creative Culture.

- GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy 2012-2020
- Urban Forest Strategy 2013
- Open Space Strategy 2007-2017
- Junction Urban Master Plan 2014
- Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan 2014

Summary

Following the outcome of Darebin's inaugural Citizen's Jury recommendation that a moveable 'Pop-Up Piazza kit' be created and funded by Council, two Pop-Up parks have been installed in support of Master Plans:

- The JUMP Pop-Up Park at the corner of Oakover Road and High Street; and
- The Broadway Pop-up Park.

The Council allocation to these projects has been expended through the purchase of both re-usable elements and temporary items such as soils, trees and other plantings. With the closure of the JUMP Pop-Up Park some of the re-usable items (ie soil, trees) have been relocated in a number of locations across the city.

One of elements of the JUMP project was to test the closure of the 'slip lane' at the corner of Oakover Road and High Street. Following the removal of the Pop-Up Park community members through a petition requested that the closure of the 'slip lane' be maintained to enable community discussion. The request to retain the closure was agreed and will remain until community consultation and a traffic study has been completed with a report to Council to follow.

With the current success and acceptance of the Broadway Pop-Up Park following further community consultation and review the option for a permanent new open space at the current location will be considered and if supported will be referred to the 2017/2018 budget.

Recommendation

That Council:

- (1) Note this report on Darebin's Pop-Up Parks.
- (2) Endorse Option 1 and Option 3 as detailed in this report that:
 - (a) Consider the implementation of Pop-Up Parks on an individual basis. These parks would respond to Master Plan recommendations and/or community request for 'trial parks'. Council endorsement would be sought prior to the installation of any future Pop-Up Parks. This approach would enable the re-use of the items purchased as part of the Pop-Up Piazza Kit.
 - (b) Maintain the closure of the Oakover Road and High Street 'slip lane' to enable community consultation and a detailed traffic study to be conducted. This will enable a full analysis of the issues to be addressed with a report provided to Council on the outcomes with recommendations for consideration.

Introduction

Inspired by Pop-Up Parks occurring in other municipalities, the Citizen's Jury convened in 2014, and recommended that a moveable 'Pop-Up Piazza Kit' be created and funded by Council. The purpose of the kit was as a temporary, movable community space that roved around the municipality to test, activate and transform under-utilized spaces.

At the 15 September 2014 meeting, Council resolved to support the project and allocated \$100,000 to its delivery.

Through the Junction Urban Master Plan 2014 (JUMP) the corner of High Street and Oakover Road was selected to house the 'Pop-Up Piazza' (Pop-Up Park) supporting the idea of reclaiming the slip lane for public space. Benefits identified with the site were:

- It would test the feasibility of the idea for permanent change recommended in JUMP;
- The site had good passive surveillance;
- It would assist in improving pedestrian safety of the area;
- There would be minimal impact to traffic volumes and flow;
- There was no net loss of parking; and
- It had good solar amenity.

The Pop-Up Park was installed in October 2015 and removed in April 2016. The 'slip lane' remained closed.

In addition to the JUMP Pop-Up, a Broadway Pop-up Park was a key project recommended in the Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan 2014. The Master Plan recognised the anti-social issues with the toilet block and lack of gathering spaces along this Broadway shopping strip. A pop-up park was created for this location to address both issues. The Broadway Pop-Up Park was launched in October 2015. This Pop-Up is still installed and well used by the community.

Issues and Discussion

Pop-Up Parks – Kit Elements

In line with the Citizen's Jury proposal the 'Pop-Up Piazza Kit' was based on the principle that the '*same kit can be moved and re-used*' across various sites. The Darebin kit has been designed to be moved at least 6-8 times.

Accordingly an investment was made in designing a robust, flexible, modular furniture system. This furniture in this kit can be used to create one or two pop-up parks simultaneously. It can also adapt to a number of different environments (i.e. retail precinct, park, library, residential street etc.)

Moving the Pop-Up Piazza, reassembling it at another location, and providing new trees and plants for the new location will cost approximately \$2,000 to \$5,000 depending on the new location and its constraints.

Oakover Road Pop Up Piazza – Reusable Elements

Since the removal of the Pop-Up Park in the JUMP precinct, the following items have been reused or planted in Darebin:

- The trees have been planted at Ruthven Reserve, Henderson Reserve, Donath Reserves, Andrew Boyd Reserve and the Preston Pavilion School.

- The understorey plants have been planted at the Bundoora Park Visitor Centre entrance.
- The soil is to be re-used to create new garden beds in Ruthven Reserve and the Pavillon School.
- The crushed rock will be re-used by our Depot for maintenance repairs to our footpaths and roads.
- The timber fencing and sleepers will be re-used at the Bundoora Park farm for maintenance repairs.

Broadway Pop Up Park – Reusable Elements

The Broadway Pop-Up Park was installed in October 2015 with the intention to test the concept of a new park in the precinct and serve as part of the consultation process for the development of a new streetside park.

The furniture, skate elements and landscaping in Broadway Pop-Up Park have been designed so that they can be reused and replanted in any future permanent park in this location. As noted previously the Broadway Pop-Up is still installed and is well used.

Benefits of the Two Pop-Up Parks

The converting of the slip lane to public space was a key project in the JUMP. In implementing the Pop-Up Park in this location, it allowed for the intersection of High Street and Oakover Road to convert to a normal 'T-intersection' for five months, and for Council to test this traffic change and monitor traffic movements.

Traffic Counts were undertaken before and after in the Pop-Up Park intervention. The temporary closure of this slip lane has assisted in reducing the traffic speeds along High Street, improving the safety for transport modes in this location.

The Broadway Pop-up Park was a key project recommended in the Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan 2014. The Master Plan recognised the anti-social issues with the toilet block and lack of gathering spaces along this Broadway shopping strip. A pop-up park was created for this location to address both issues. The Broadway Pop-Up Park was launched in October 2015.

Feedback gathered from community consultation indicates that the pop-up park has played a role in enhancing the community safety perceptions of the space, whilst Council's Maintenance Officers have also noted a reduction of inappropriate activities in this toilet block.

Budget Expenditure

The budget allocations for both the JUMP Pop-Up Park and Broadway Pop-up Park have been expended. \$100,000 was allocated to JUMP through the Citizen's Jury process and \$93,700 to Broadway through the Master Plan implementation. The breakdown of expenditure across the projects was 75% re-usable elements such as seats, planter boxes, trees, soil and synthetic turf and 25% on one-off items such as design, construction, signage and maintenance.

Council Investment in Increasing the Tree Canopy Cover

Noting the integral role trees play in maintaining the health and liveability of Darebin and its community, Council has prepared a number of strategies in response.

Through the GreenStreets Strategy Implementation approximately 3300 street trees will be planted throughout Darebin as part of Darebin's Citywide Beautification and 2015-2016 annual tree planting programs. In addition 328 trees have been planted in parks as part of the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy and the Darebin Play Space Strategy.

Oakover Road and High Street Slip Lane Closure

The installation of the Pop-Up Park at the corner at Oakover Road and High Street required the closure of the corner 'slip lane'. With the removal of the Pop-Up the original intention was to reinstate the 'slip lane'. However in light of community reaction and a petition received, the 'slip lane' has to date remained closed.

Options for Consideration

- Option 1: Consider the implementation of Pop-Up parks on an individual basis. These parks would respond to Master Plan recommendations and or community request for 'trial parks'. Council endorsement would be sought prior to the installation of any future Pop-Up parks. This approach would enable the re-use of the items purchased as part of the Pop-Up Piazza Kit.
- Option 2: Not proceed with the Pop-Up Park program. This would limit both the opportunity to trial parks in areas the community identified as potential sites for permanent parks and the re-use of the items purchased as part of the Pop-Up Piazza kit.
- Option 3: Maintain the closure of the Oakover Road and High Street 'slip lane' to enable community consultation and a detailed traffic study to be conducted. This will enable a full analysis of the issues to be addressed with a report provided to Council on the outcomes with recommendations for consideration.

Financial and Resource Implications

Funds were allocated to Pop-Up Parks through:

- The Citizens Jury process: \$100,000 expended at JUMP Pop-Up for the purchase of re-usable elements (75%) and on-off costs (25%); and
- The Reservoir Masterplan Implementation: \$93,700 at Broadway Pop-Up for the purchase of re-usable elements (75%) and on-off costs (25%).

Moving the Pop-Up Piazza, reassembling it at another location, and providing new trees and plants for the new location will cost approximately \$2,000 - \$5,000 depending on the new location and its constraints. The kit has been designed to be moved at least 6-8 times.

Risk Management

Risks associated with pedestrian safety, vehicular safety and cyclist safety were considered as part of the design process. To mitigate these risks, a Traffic Safety Audit was undertaken for the design and implementation of the Pop-Up Piazza at Oakover Road.

The furniture and play elements for both Pop-Up Parks were designed to meet Australian Design and Building Standards. Weekly maintenance checks also formed part of the risk management actions for each Pop-Up Park.

Policy Implications

Economic Development

Pop-Up Parks can breathe new life into dormant retail centre; bringing new visitors into the centre. This has a positive impact in increasing retail traffic and visitation numbers, having a positive flow-on effect on adjacent retail centres, residential area and public transport corridors.

Funding improvements to the public realm have flow on effects on adjacent retail centres, residential area and public transport corridors.

Environmental Sustainability

In the planning and design of the Pop-Up Parks, environmental sustainability has been at the forefront of the projects. Both projects have factored in all elements of the spaces to be re-used and recycled.

Even though temporary, Pop-Up Parks also contribute to improving the environmental sustainability of a site by providing trees and plants, which all play a role in reducing the urban heat island effect.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

Pop-up parks enhance the social and community value of this neighbourhood by improving access to open space in areas that are lacking or going through urban transition, providing much needed local space for people to gather and interact.

Other

There are no other policy implications related to this report.

Future Actions

- Conduct community consultation and traffic study in relation to the Oakover Road and High Street 'slip lane' closure.
- Continue to monitor the Broadway Pop-Up park.

Consultation and Advocacy

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

Stakeholder engagement has been instrumental to the development and implementation of both Pop-Up Parks. Both ideas to reclaim road space for public space, benefitting the wider community were tested in Streetscape Master Plans for both Activity Centres. Both sites were tested again through concept development and concept delivery. It is important to remember that Pop-Up Parks are also an interactive stage of community engagement process, allowing for the community to use and experience the temporary park.

An overview of the Stakeholder and Community engagement activities for each site can be found in **Appendix A**.

Consultation with internal Stakeholders:

- Director City Development and Assets
- Manager Parks and Vegetation
- Senior Coordinator Transport Management

- Coordinator Public Realm
- Transport Engineer
- Landscape Architect
- Urban Designer
- Coordinator Economic Development
- Strategic Planner
- Reservoir Streetscape Implementation Working Group
- JUMP Implementation Working Group

Related Documents

- Overview Stakeholder and Community engagement activities (**Appendix A**)
- Junction Urban Master Plan (2014)
- Reservoir Streetscape Master Plan 2014
- GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy 2012-2020
- Open Space Strategy 2007-2017
- Council Minutes – 7 March 2016 and 4 April 2016

Disclosure of Interest

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.

7.4 IMPACT OF NORTH-EAST TRUCK CURFEW ON DAREBIN

Author: Senior Coordinator Transport Management

Reviewed By: Director Assets and Business Services

Report Background

In response to concerns regarding truck traffic on Rosanna Road, the State Government introduced a Truck Curfew on Greensborough Highway and Rosanna Road between Grimshaw and Banksia Streets in Banyule from 10 pm-6 am, seven days a week on a 12 month trial. This trial commenced on 21 August 2015.

VicRoads have recently released pre and post curfew truck data for key roads within Darebin and these results are presented below.

Previous Council Resolution

At the ordinary Council meeting on 6 July 2015 Council resolved:

'That Council receive a report by the end of September on the likely impact on Darebin's road network of the State Government's decision to introduce a night-time truck ban in the Banyule area. The report should also recommend any actions that Council should consider.'

Previous Briefing(s)

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor briefing.

Summary

In August 2015 VicRoads implemented a truck curfew for a 12 month period in the North-East of Melbourne. 'Before' and 'After' surveys have been undertaken by VicRoads which indicates that as a consequence of the truck curfew, truck drivers have been diverting to other arterial routes, including roads within Darebin.

VicRoads will continue to review the truck curfew and seek feedback from Stakeholders via the Community Reference Group. This feedback will provide an indication of the success of the trial and play a part in determining its future.

Recommendation

That Council continues to provide feedback to VicRoads on the Truck Curfew via the Community Reference Group.

Introduction

On 21 August 2015 a truck curfew on Rosanna Road and Greensborough Highway, between Grimshaw Street and Banksia Street was introduced.

The curfew was introduced to operate as a 12 month trial and would be in place between 10pm and 6am, seven days a week from 21 August 2015 to 21 August 2016 and applies to all trucks weighing 4.5 tonnes gross or greater.

The plan was in response to local concerns about traffic in the area with over 600 residents having signed a local petition calling for action on Rosanna Rd.

The restrictions included additional truck curfews in nearby suburbs to prevent heavy vehicles shifting to Viewbank, Montmorency or Eltham. The restrictions included:

- Lower Plenty and Main Rd, between Greensborough Rd and Fitzsimons Lane;
- Para Rd, between Grimshaw Street and Lower Plenty Rd;
- St Helena Rd, Karingal Drive and Bolton Street, between Grimshaw Street and Lower Plenty Road;
- Ryans Road, Wattletree Road and Main Road between Diamond Creek Road and Fitzsimons Lane;
- Waiora Road between Kingsbury Drive and Banksia Street; and
- Waterdale Road between Kingsbury Drive and Bell Street.

The extent of the North-East Truck Curfew is illustrated in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Extent of the North-East Truck Curfew. Source: VicRoads

Issues and Discussion

Before and After Traffic Surveys

To evaluate the impact of the truck curfew, VicRoads arranged for traffic surveys to be undertaken in August 2015 and March 2016 at various key locations using electronic traffic counters. These surveys have allowed for an assessment to be undertaken of truck flow and volumes within the area, before and after the truck curfew implementation.

It is noted that the 'before' counts were undertaken prior to the opening of the Melbourne Market in Epping. Additionally, fluctuations in traffic volumes throughout the year are common and are evident in the survey data.

Electronic traffic counter locations within and immediately surrounding Darebin are shown in Figure 2 below:



Figure 2: Electronic Traffic Counter Locations within Darebin. Source: VicRoads

Results of the Survey Data

An analysis of the 'before' and 'after' traffic surveys for the entire curfew area revealed the following trends:

- There was an overall increase in total traffic volumes (light and heavy vehicles) in the March 2016 data when compared with August 2015 data.
- The total number of trucks during curfew hours on Rosanna Road reduced significantly from 271 to 89 over the eight-hour curfew period;
- The number of trucks on all roads which have the trial curfew in place dropped during curfew hours, with the exception of Greensborough Highway and Waiora Road;
- Waiora Road saw a total increase of 30 trucks over the eight hour curfew period, even though a curfew is in place;
- A significantly higher number of trucks were recorded on Greensborough Highway. Trucks volumes were noted to have gone from 278 to 363 over the eight-hour curfew period; a breakdown of the data, suggests that while both medium and large truck volumes have reduced from 135 to 90 within the curfew period, there was a significant increase in small trucks.

An overview of truck volumes within the curfew period is provided in Figure 3 below:



Figure 3: Truck Volumes within the curfew period

Key Trends within Darebin

A review of the ‘before’ and ‘after’ survey data for those roads located within Darebin has been undertaken and the results are presented in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Before and After Survey Date for Roads located in Darebin

Road	Location	Pre-Curfew Truck Volume (10 pm - 6 am)	Post-Curfew Truck Volume (10 pm - 6 am)	Change in Truck Volumes	% Change
Plenty Road	South of Grimshaw Street	197	277	80	41%
Bell Street	West of Oriel Road	176	256	80	45%
Bell Street	East of Nicholson Street	199	284	85	43%
High Street	South of Westgarth Street	154	200	46	30%
High Street	South of Mahoneys Street	137	202	65	47%
Albert Street	South of Plenty Road	138	168	30	22%

The results of the data reveals that as a result of the truck curfews many drivers are diverting to other arterial roads such as Bell Street, Lower Heidelberg Road, Plenty Road, High Street and Albert Street. The highest increase amongst the roads in Darebin was Bell Street, east of Nicholson Street, which saw a total truck volume increase over the eight hour curfew period from 199 to 284.

It is noted that trucks can still use the roads within the curfew if they are travelling to a destination within the curfew area, so even with the curfew not all heavy trucks are eliminated. In addition, over-dimensional vehicle operators prefer to travel at night when there is less traffic to better manage risk. They are exempt from the curfew. They take up two lanes and travel slowly so risks (and noise) are reduced.

Feedback Provided Through Community Reference Group

Feedback received from the Community Reference Group generally related to safety issues on Rosanna Road which was one reason for bringing in the curfew. Some of these issues related to the curfew and some did not;

- Rosanna Road is not able to accommodate present truck/traffic volumes. There is a high potential for accidents, no margin for error given road width.
- Concerns regarding pedestrian and resident safety if trucks lose control and veer off road; crossing Rosanna Road is dangerous
- Risk to cyclists
- Parking along Rosanna Road – potential to reduce the width of nature strip
- Extra time travel for drivers (fatigue)
- Pollution
- Diversion of traffic along local roads
- Speed limit is considered too high on Rosanna Road (should be 50km)
- It has been quieter at night, particularly noticing less 'engine brake' noise from large trucks
- Flower industry drivers who have much smaller trucks must travel at night to the Epping Market, which opens at 3 am. The curfew has forced them to travel through Christmas Hills from Yarra Valley, adding 45mins to 60mins on their trip, and adding to fatigue and risk of wildlife collisions.

Next Steps

VicRoads will continue to review the truck curfew and seek ongoing feedback from the Community Reference Group (CRG). The CRG has recently been established and includes representatives from industry, Councils and the community. The CRG will have the opportunity to:

- provide views, ideas and information relevant to the curfew trial during the 12 month curfew
- provide feedback on the progress of trial objectives and outcomes

As part of this review, VicRoads will undertake an origin-destination survey for Rosanna Road, Greensborough Highway, Waterdale Road and Wairoa Road during mid-2016. This will enable VicRoads to identify whether trucks using these roads are on legitimate, local trips. Additionally, increased enforcement will be undertaken on Wairoa Road and Greensborough Highway.

VicRoads will share recommendations of the review and outline further actions if necessary in late 2016. Further information is available on VicRoads website

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/planning-and-projects/melbourne-road-projects/north-east-truck-curfew-trial>

Financial and Resource Implications

There are no Financial and Resource implications associated with this report.

Risk Management

There are no Risk Management implications associated with this report.

Policy Implications**Economic Development**

Access to local businesses by heavy vehicles is essential for their viability and the existing bans may affect their right of access. No data has been provided to date on this potential impact.

Environmental Sustainability

Requiring heavy vehicles to travel further to reach their destination will generate an increase in vehicle emissions.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no factors in this report which impact on human rights, equity and inclusion.

Other

There are no other factors which impact on this report.

Future Actions

- VicRoads to undertake Origin-Destination Surveys
- Ongoing feedback will be sought from the Community Reference Group
- Recommendations of the review will be shared by VicRoads in late 2016

Consultation and Advocacy

- VicRoads

Related Documents

- VicRoads North east truck curfew background
- Council Minutes – 6 July 2015

Disclosure of Interest

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.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 M40 PROJECT: FAST TRACKING OF CLOSURE OF NON-SIGNALISED ROADS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO.

291

CR. BO LI

Take notice that at the Ordinary meeting to be held on 4 July 2016, it is my intention to move:

That Council:

- (1) *Notes the closure of non-signalised crossings along St George's Road shared path as part of the M40 project.*
- (2) *Resolves to write to VicRoads, the Minister for Roads and Roads Safety, local MPs and all upper house members for the Northern Region advocating for the fast tracking of the permanent closures of non-signalised crossings as part of the M40 project.*
- (3) *Hosts one or more community workshops in conjunction with Melbourne Water in order to update and inform community members of the M40 project.*

Notice Received:

20 June 2016

Notice Given to Councillors:

27 June 2016

Date of Meeting:

4 July 2016

9. URGENT BUSINESS

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

11. PETITIONS

12. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

12.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in section 3 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:

- Council Briefing – 14 June 2016
- Strategic Workshop – 20 June 2016
- Council Briefing – 21 June 2016

Recommendation

That the record of the Assembly of Councillors held on 14, 20 and 21 June 2016 be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session
	Date:	Tuesday 14 June 2016
	Location:	Function Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Vince Fontana (Mayor), Cr Gaetano Greco, Cr Bo Li, Cr Trent McCarthy, Cr Julie Williams (from 5.44 pm), Cr Angela Vilella (from 5.45 pm), Cr Oliver Walsh (from 6.25 pm).
	Council Staff:	Rasiah Dev, Steve Hamilton, Gavin Cator, Katrina Knox, Jacinta Stevens. Nathan Moresi, Che Sutherland (from 5.35 pm to 6.05 pm), Vicky Guglielmo (from 5.35 pm to 6.19 pm), Chris Meulblok (from 6.10 pm to 6.40 pm)
	Other:	Peter Clark, Eamonn Kelly – Melbourne Water (from 5.35 pm to 6.05 pm).
APOLOGIES:		Cr Tim Laurence, Cr Steven Tsitas.

The Assembly commenced at 5.35 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Melbourne Water – St Georges Road and M40 Project (Verbal)	No disclosures were made.
2	Art in Public Places	No disclosures were made.
3	Surplus State Government Land – VicTrack Lot 34 Merri Parade (Cnr St Georges Road and Merri Parade) (Verbal)	No disclosures were made.
4	Surplus State Government Land – Melbourne Water, 48 Rona Street, Reservoir (Verbal)	No disclosures were made.
5	Planning Meeting – Discussion on agenda	No disclosures were made.
6	Darebin Child Friendly City Framework	No disclosures were made.
7	Darebin Leisure Strategy: 2015-2020 Action Plan Update	No disclosures were made.

The Assembly concluded at 6.45 pm

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



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Strategic Workshop
	Date:	Monday 20 June 2016
	Location:	Function Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr Vince Fontana (Mayor - from 6.13 pm), Cr Steven Tsitas, Cr Julie Williams, Cr Gaetano Greco, Cr Bo Li.
	Council Staff:	Rasiah Dev, Steve Hamilton, Gavin Cator, Katrina Knox, Jacinta Stevens, Allan Cochrane, Darren Rudd, Verica Jokic (from 6.10 pm).
	Other:	
APOLOGIES:		Cr Angela Villella, Cr Trent McCarthy (Leave of Absence), Cr Oliver Walsh, Cr Tim Laurence.

The Assembly commenced at 5.52 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Former Ruthven Primary School Site Update (Verbal)	No disclosures were made.
2	John Cain Memorial Park Update (Verbal) – Deferred	No disclosures were made.
3	Planning Committee Charter (Verbal) –	No disclosures were made.
4	Budget Briefing - Verbal	No disclosures were made. Cr Tsitas absent from 6.12 pm to 6.35 pm
5	Pop Up Parks – Update (Combined report Incorporating NOM and Petition)	No disclosures were made.

The Assembly concluded at 6.42 pm

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



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

ASSEMBLY DETAILS:	Title:	Councillor Briefing Session – CEO Performance Review
	Date:	Tuesday 21 June 2016
	Location:	Conference Room, Darebin Civic Centre
PRESENT:	Councillors:	Cr. Vince Fontana (Mayor), Cr. Oliver Walsh, Cr. Bo Li, Cr. Steven Tsitas, Cr. Julie Williams
	Council Staff:	Jacinta Stevens.
	Other:	David Reynolds, Davidsons
APOLOGIES:		Cr. Trent McCarthy (approved leave of absence), Cr. Tim Laurence, Cr. Angela Villella, Gavin Cator

The Assembly commenced at 6.20 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	CEO 2015/2016 Performance Review	Cr Greco declared a direct conflict of interest prior to the briefing and will not be taking part in the CEO performance review

The Assembly concluded at 6.50 pm

RECORD COMPLETED BY:	Officer Name:	Jacinta Stevens
	Officer Title:	Executive Manager Corporate Governance and Performance

13. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Recommendation

That Council note the Reports by Mayor and Councillors.

14. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

Nil

15. CLOSE OF MEETING