



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

MONDAY, 1 MARCH 2010

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2010

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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 1 MARCH 2010**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.02 P.M.

1. PRESENT

Councillors

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

Council Officers

Jan Black – Acting Chief Executive Officer
Geoff Glynn – Director Infrastructure
Bruce Dobson – Director Corporate Services
Michael Ballock – Director Development and Amenity
Dean Griggs – Acting Director Communities and Culture
Nick Mazzarella – Manager Major Projects and Transport
Ray McQuillen – Manager Corporate Governance
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in Report No. 7.1 (Community Grants Program 2010)
– see page 7.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 15 February 2010 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 75

5.1 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

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

- Council Planning Workshop.
- Farewell function for departing Chief Executive Officer, Michael Ulbrick.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Council Planning Workshop.
- Global Reconciliation Forum focussing on Australia – India reconciliation issues.
- ‘Vindaloo against Violence’ luncheon attended by the Premier, the Hon. John Brumby.
- Launch of Social Housing project – Mary Street Preston.
- Reservoir Structure Plan meeting.
- Resident and trader issues.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. DIANA ASMAR

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

- Welcome function for visiting Tourism Minister from Lebanon.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Council Planning Workshop.
- Resident and trader matters.

5.4 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSI

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

- Council Planning Workshop.
- Final Preston Cemetery Trust meeting.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group meeting.
- Resident issues.

5.5 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG

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

- Council Planning Workshop.
- North Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association Inc (NEMCA) Chinese New Year celebrations.
- Chinese Movie Festival.
- Bundoora Homestead Board of Management meeting.
- First Full Moon Lunar New Year Festival at Linh Son Buddhist Temple in Reservoir.

5.6 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Council Planning Workshop.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Community Grants Committee meeting.
- Final Preston Cemetery Trust meeting.
- Merri Creek Management Committee meeting.
- Various planning, kindergarten and child care, and dogs off lead issues.

5.7 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Community Grants Committee meeting.
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria Disabilities Advisory Committee Forum.
- Council Planning Workshop.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Reservoir Structure Plan meeting.
- Launch of Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013.
- Inner Northern Group Training Ltd Board meeting.
- First Full Moon Lunar New Year Festival at Linh Son Buddhist Temple in Reservoir.
- CEO Performance Review Committee meeting.
- Local resident matters.

Cr. Greco expressed sorrow in relation to the devastating earthquake in Chile.

5.8 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN

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

- Final Preston Cemetery Trust meeting.
- Farewell function for departing Chief Executive Officer, Michael Ulbrick.
- Council Planning Workshop.
- Local constituent matters.

5.9 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. VINCE FONTANA

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

- RoadSafe Inner Northern Community Road Safety Council meeting.
- Presentation to Bell Primary School students.
- Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee meeting.
- Economic Development breakfast forum at Rydges.
- Council Planning Workshop.
- Northcote Girl Guides function.
- Welcoming function for international students at Thornbury High School.
- Final Preston Cemetery Trust meeting.
- Launch of Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013.
- Opening of the Bowls Australia office at Darebin International Sports Centre.
- Darebin Local Safety Committee meeting.
- VicRoads' 'SmartRoad' launch at Northcote Town Hall.
- Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce (AICC) business luncheon.
- First Full Moon Lunar New Year Festival at Linh Son Buddhist Temple in Reservoir.
- Ibleo Social Club 37th Anniversary dinner.
- Carabinieri Association of Victoria luncheon.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

MINUTE NO. 76

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

The following questions were submitted:

- Ken Mouser of Reservoir asked a question about a business operating in North Road Reservoir. The Mayor, Cr. Fontana, indicated that a written response would be forwarded.
- Heather Ritchie of Reservoir asked a question about traffic issues at the corner of Beatty Street and Cameron Street Reservoir. The question was responded to by Cr. Morgan.
- Peter Thomson of Reservoir asked a question about police resources in Darebin. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Fontana.
- John Nugent of Epping asked a question about ground fees for Women's Clubs in Darebin. The Mayor, Cr. Fontana, indicated that a written response would be forwarded.
- John Nugent of Epping asked a question about capital expenditure at Donath Reserve. The question was responded to by the Mayor, Cr. Fontana.
- John Nugent of Epping asked a question about expenditure of the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Fund Round Two grant from the Federal Government. The Mayor, Cr. Fontana, indicated that a written response would be forwarded.

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

7. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Cr. Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in the following matter classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest because of conflicting duty and describing the nature of the interest as that he is the honorary President of the North Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association Inc. (NEMCA), an applicant organisation.

He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 7.39pm.

7.1 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM 2010

MINUTE NO. 77

AUTHOR: Community Grants Officer - Roberto Malara
Manager, Family, Youth and Community Support - Dean Griggs

MANAGER: Director Communities and Culture - Jan Black

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Within existing 2009/2010 Budget

SUMMARY:

In 2009 Council adopted the Community Grants Review. This paper provides an overview of the schedule for the 2010 grants program as well as the new guidelines and new application form.

CONSULTATION:

Darebin Council Community Grants Project Committee:

Family Youth and Community Support
Leisure Services
Arts and Cultural Development
Environmental Strategy
Customer and Civic Services
Aged and Disability Services
Social Inclusion and Diversity

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT:

- (1) The new guidelines and application form for the Community Grants Program attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted.

- (2) The schedule for the 2010 grant program attached as **Appendix B** to this report be adopted.
- (3) Those organisations currently receiving 3 year funding be funded for a further 1 year whilst Council reviews the three year program in detail over the 2010/2011 financial year.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Darebin Community Grants program is a key community development program undertaken by Council each year. The program encourages and supports the development of community based programs which enable the active participation of Darebin residents. Community Grants are available to 'not-for-profit', locally based community groups and organisations or those meeting a demonstrated need or interest of Darebin residents.

In 2009 the community grants program yielded a high number of requests with approximately \$500,000 approved in funding.

Overview of the Program

An extensive publicity campaign is carried out for the Program through local newspapers, ethnic press and Darebin City Council publications. Information is sent to hundreds of community groups. General information, guidelines, selection criteria and application forms are available through the City of Darebin website: www.darebin.vic.gov.au/communitygrants.

In addition to this, about 200 application forms and information kits are also printed and made available from Darebin Customer Service Centres and Libraries.

Two community information sessions are conducted to explain the Community Grants Program and to give the representatives from community groups and organisations an opportunity to have their questions answered. Council Officers are also available to assist groups on a one-to-one basis with applications. Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups/organisations may submit applications in their own language.

After applications for funding close, the Community Grants Project Committee (comprising Council Officers from across relevant Directorates) is involved in the assessment process using the grants selection criteria. Thereafter the Community Grants Committee, comprised of six Councillors, will participate in the development of recommendations to go before a full meeting of Council.

Once Council approval is received, all applicants are notified of the outcome. All funded groups/organisations receive a Condition of Grant letter to sign on receiving the grant cheques. All funded groups/organisations are also required to provide a final evaluation report after completion of the funded project.

Community Grants Presentation Ceremony

All successful applicants are invited to a Grants Presentation Ceremony to be held in August 2010. A selection of community groups are also invited to present their successful projects supported by Council in the previous year. Artists involved in some of the projects provide entertainment on the night. This event provides a great opportunity to Councillors, Council Officers and community representatives to meet, share ideas and build networks.

CORE ISSUES

The review of the grants program is complete and an application kit (**Appendix A**) and grants timetable (**Appendix B**) have been developed.

Overview of the Community Grants Review

The scope of the review concentrated on the Community Grants Model and Framework. This includes the program structure, the size of the grants which are available and review of assessment criteria. Governance structures and assessment processes of the grants have also been reviewed as well as the inclusion of a 3 year funding stream to the program.

Overall the program has greater alignment with the Council Plan with funding priorities now under the following 'shared goals' from the Council Plan.

- Community Wellbeing
- Celebration and Participation
- Environmental Sustainability.

A major outcome from the review is the clarity for applicants about the amount of funding which can be applied for. Grants are now available in the following funding ranges:

Cash Grant and/or Venue Hire Subsidy Categories:	
Grant category:	\$ Threshold:
1. Small 1 year grant	\$100 - \$500
2. Medium 1 year grant	\$501 - \$2000
3. Large 1 year grant	\$2001 - \$8000
4. Small 3 year grant	\$200 - \$500 each year
5. Medium 3 year grant	\$501 - \$2000 each year

6. Large 3 year grant	\$2001 - \$8,000 each year
7. Quick Response Grant <i>Interested applicants must contact the Grants Coordinator before applying for this grant.</i>	\$100 - \$300 one off grant

The application kit

As discussed throughout the review process it is timely to develop and design new communications materials to reinvigorate the grants program. A new application has been developed and will be made available to applicants.

Grants timetable

In 2009 the Community Grants Committee agreed to meet a number of times throughout the year. Attached is a schedule of meetings as well as key dates for the 2010 grants program – see **Appendix B**.

Funding with organisations where Council has a Memorandum of Understanding and a long term relationship

Council has a number of long standing funding arrangements with many organisations who receive 3 year funding. These include:

- Neighbourhood Houses
- Bands and Orchestras
- Arts and Cultural Groups
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council.

All of these organisations are due for new three year agreements. It is recommended that Council resolve to invite these organisations to apply for funding for 1 year whilst Council reviews the three year program in detail over the 2010/2011 financial year.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

A recommended community grants priority is environmental sustainability. Therefore the community grants program will encourage community organisation initiatives related to the care and protection of our environment.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The community grants program is a major platform for Council to further its social inclusion agenda. A large majority of the grants relate to linking people together to improve community connectedness either through projects funded through the cash grants program or through subsidised use of Council facilities. More specifically, of the 245 applications received in the most recent funding round, 105 were from culturally and linguistically diverse groups, 4 were from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and 11 from disability groups.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

FUTURE ACTIONS

In line with the 2010 grant program schedule.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Nil.

(Cr. Chiang returned to the meeting – 7.45pm)

7.2 COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN TO RETAIN PUBLIC LANDS IN PUBLIC HANDS WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE RUTHVEN OPEN SPACE AGREEMENT

MINUTE NO. 78

AUTHOR: Manager Social Inclusion and Diversity - John Smith

MANAGER: Director Communities and Culture - Jan Black

**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:**

SUMMARY:

This report responds to two connected decisions of Council – a request for information about the impact on open space provision associated with the possible termination of the Ruthven School Joint Use Agreement and a decision to provide in principle support for a community campaign to retain public assets in public hands.

The report uses the Ruthven Joint Use Agreement as an example of potential impacts of loss of public land resulting from decisions of the state.

The report also provides an outline of the intentions of the Communities First Campaign and recommends a number of ways the Council might support the campaign.

CONSULTATION:

Council officers
Northern Region Municipalities
Preston/Reservoir Progress Association
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT:

- (1) In addition to writing to State and Federal Members of Parliament, the Victorian Local Governance Association and the Municipal Association of Victoria, Council write to the Mayors of Moreland, Banyule, Whittlesea, Hume, Nillumbik, Yarra and Moonee Valley Councils providing information and support for the 'Community First' Campaign.
- (2) Council host a summit of the Mayors of Moreland, Banyule, Whittlesea, Hume, Nillumbik, Yarra and Moonee Valley Councils to frame a set of recommendations about the disposal of public lands.

- (3) Council write to the Minister for Education, the Honourable Bronwyn Pike MP, with further information about the impact of the loss of open space associated with the Ruthven Schools Regeneration Project.
- (4) Council write to the Preston Reservoir Progress Association congratulating them on their campaign and offering in principle support.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

In November 2009 Council requested information about the impact of schools amalgamation on the Ruthven School Joint Use Agreement and on the provision of open space in the area. In February 2010 Council moved to support a local community campaign to ensure that public lands remain in public hands: the Community First Campaign.

Closure of Ruthven Primary School and the end of the joint use agreement

Council was first briefed about schools redevelopment in Darebin in May 2009 following a meeting between officers and the Regional Director of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD), Northern Region, Mr Wayne Craig about the schools regeneration process in Darebin.

As a result of the current regeneration process across Victoria, schools will be more closely integrated with both early years and with universities and training institutions. This reflects both Victorian and Federal government policy. The aim is to create clearer pathways between the different sectors and improved educational and employment outcomes overall. The consolidation process will result in Prep to Year 12 campuses of at least 1100 students and primary campuses of at least 400. DEECD research indicates that larger schools provide more choices and lead to better outcomes, provide a better learning environment and an improved capacity for professional development and innovation for teachers.

The Merrilands School Regeneration Project will see the amalgamation of three schools – Lakeside Secondary, Ruthven Primary and Merrilands on a single site at Merrilands. Two separate schools – one primary and one secondary - will operate from the same campus. Approximately \$7.5 million has been set aside for this project. The integration of childcare on the site is being considered. DEECD is of the view that the sale of Lakeside and Ruthven may return up to \$19 million.

The May 2009 briefing outlined a number of concerns and opportunities current at that time:

- A possible threat to open space through loss of the Joint Use Agreement at Ruthven Primary School.
- The viability of East Preston and East Reservoir Schools was in question.
- Council intended to continue pursuing opportunities to co-locate early years services and programs with primary schools, particularly those under threat. The co-location of early years services was presented as a strategy to:
 - Maximise the use of the currently underused facilities
 - Provide a source of enrolments for the schools
 - Involve the local community and refresh parent involvement.

Council wrote to the Hon Bronwyn Pike MP, Minister for Education in August 2009, alerting the Minister to Council's particular interest in the Ruthven School site, having managed a Joint Use Agreement concerning the school oval since 1996. The letter stressed the importance of retaining the oval as public space. The letter also indicated our intention to approach the Northern Region DEECD for funding to investigate the feasibility of co-locating early years services at Preston East Primary as a way of supporting the school.

Council received a letter in response from the Minister on 6 October 2009. The Minister's response was clear that the Joint Use Agreement will end in 2011 and that, following this, if the site is no longer required by DEECD the land will be disposed of, with Council being offered the opportunity to purchase the site in the first instance.

Open Space provision in Reservoir

The Merrilands Estate was planned in 1919 by Melbourne surveyor Saxil Tuxen. The design of the estate in the immediate post-war years meant the area was designed with some notable similarities to the central triangle of the Federal Capital, Canberra.

Of note in this urban planning is the lack of the typical grid, segregated residential places, road hierarchies and internal reserves. It was an attempt to build community in a garden suburb.

The internal reserves are characterised by being surrounded by housing with laneway access. Many of these reserves were never developed as open space and numerous sites have been sold, including three core pieces of open space in the centre of the estate.

Darebin Council sold one of these sites in the early 1990s. The site was sold to a developer to build elderly citizens accommodation to enable local residents the opportunity to move from their homes into care without having to leave their local community.

Joint Use and Development Agreement 1996

Council then used funds from the sale on cycle paths in the area and at Ruthven Primary School. Darebin Council entered into a joint use and development agreement on 8 November 1996.

A range of capital works including a new playground, shelter, soft landscaping and reconstruction of the sports field were undertaken at the site at the time. The total cost of these works was \$200,000, of which the School Council contributed \$25,000 and Darebin Council \$175,000.

The Joint Use Agreement guaranteed community access to the oval in return for this initial investment and an agreement for Council to provide ongoing maintenance on the site. Council has upheld its commitment to maintain the grounds in line with the terms of the agreement.

The typical maintenance regime has consisted of:

General garden maintenance (contractor)	\$550 per month
Playground inspections and maintenance (Council staff)	\$200 per month
Oval Mowing 18 cuts per year (Council staff)	\$300 per month
Graffiti removal (Council staff) as required	\$500 per year
Total annual costs are approximately	\$13,100

The 'Community First' Campaign

The 'Community First' Campaign has been instigated by the Preston Reservoir Progress Association in response to the closure of Preston East Primary School, loss of services at the PANCH Medical Service and Merrilands School amalgamation.

To date letters have been sent to various State Ministers and to other local community organisations and Council has been approached to support the campaign.

On 15 February 2010, Council resolved to give in principle support to the community campaign to keep public assets in public hands in the City of Darebin to provide for the long term needs of our community in relation to open space and early childhood services in particular.

To advance this goal of retaining public assets it was determined that Council write to all local State and Federal Members of Parliament and seek assurance from all political parties for two 'community first' commitments:

- (1) That surplus State Government land from school mergers in Darebin along with the PANCH Medical service site on Bell Street Preston will NOT be sold to private interests in the next term of government.
- (2) That the land and buildings on school sites that will be surplus to local school requirements be transferred without cost to the Darebin Council prior to the State elections in November 2010 to allow the orderly development of early childhood services and open space provision in partnership with our local community.

It was also resolved that Council officers write to the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Local Governance Association on this Council position.

The Mayor has recently contacted Mayors from other Northern Regional Councils to ascertain their interest in also supporting the 'Community First' Campaign. Letters to these Councils will be sent in line with the recommendation of this report.

CORE ISSUES

Impact of the sale of the Ruthven Primary School on open space provision

The sale of the school site combined with the previous sale of open space in Merrilands means that a large section of Reservoir will now have insufficient open space. Of the remaining open space Wilson Boulevard Reserve, Merrilands Community Centre, Ludeman Reserve, Tracey Reserve and Gellibrand Crescent Reserve are all small neighbourhood parks of less than 0.25 of a hectare which is considered to be the minimum size of useful open space in Darebin's Open Space Strategy.

A section of Ruthven Primary School oval would help Council meet its Open Space provision standards as established in the open space hierarchy which underpins the Open Space Strategy. The hierarchy consists of Neighbourhood, District and Regional Parks.

The Strategy includes provision for neighbourhood parks of between 0.25 hectares and 2 .0 hectares within 500 metres of each household.

A neighbourhood park should provide a number of informal recreation opportunities catering for a range of age groups eg. playground, kick about space, quiet relaxation. The parks will cater for short duration visits by residents from the surrounding neighbourhood.

The School site is 30,540 square metres on 33 titles. The estimated value of the site is between \$6,600,000 and \$7,100,000. On this basis 0.25 hectares (2500 square metres or 50x50 metres) would cost \$750,000. A two hectare site would cost \$4,500,000.

Disposal of public lands by government

The 'Community First' Campaign highlights an issue that is of great concern to Council and which has been identified in the *Response to Housing Stress in Darebin* discussion paper, which is now out for consultation. The Housing Stress paper recommends that Council identify possible surplus State and Commonwealth Land in Darebin and develop mechanisms for making decisions about mechanisms to dispose of these. State and Commonwealth lands are currently being mapped to that end.

A significant proportion of Darebin is currently managed by a range of government authorities including Melbourne Water, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, the Victorian Rail Track Corporation (VicTrack), the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the Office of Housing. While it is unlikely that much of this land will ever become surplus to requirements, the 'Community First' Campaign makes the point that, when this does occur, processes for disposal may lack transparency and exclude community input. A recent example has been the disposal of VicTrack land in Darebin through private sales at market prices, despite Council's request that these tracts be considered for sale at part price to encourage the development of social housing. The 'Community First' Campaign supports the proposition that public land should be provided to community through the auspice of local government before other alternatives are considered.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The disposal of surplus land is directly related to the issue of environmental sustainability. Transparent disposal processes provide opportunities for integrated local planning that maximises the balance between development and provision of open space and other land uses.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The central tenet of the 'Community First' Campaign is strongly supportive of Council's goal of building inclusive communities. Inclusive communities require high quality social infrastructure, and an adequate supply of social housing. Choices about land use directly impact on the capacity of Council and other levels of government to provide infrastructure. Opportunities for inner city municipalities like Darebin to create new infrastructure become scarcer as the supply of land diminishes with time. It therefore becomes increasingly important for community to have input to decisions about the disposal of land.

Other

The Council Plan 2009-2013 commits Council to ensuring the liveability and regeneration of the City and to ensuring our built and natural environment continues to meet the changing needs and expectations of Darebin's community. As a part of this, the Plan commits Council to maintaining our current infrastructure as well as supporting the development of new infrastructure as required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At present decisions about the disposal of land are made by public authorities usually with little consultation and without reference to local authorities. As such, opportunity costs are not considered and properly debated. It is difficult to calculate costs borne by local communities of lost opportunity for improved infrastructure, but it is clear that loss of land to local infrastructure ultimately costs communities. The current State and Commonwealth practice of selling land to local government has direct financial implications for Council.

FUTURE ACTIONS

1. Letters will be sent to State and Federal Members of Parliament, the Victorian Local Governance Association and the Municipal Association of Victoria supporting the 'Community First' Campaign in line with the Council Resolution passed on 15 February 2010.
2. An invitation will be sent to the Northern Region Mayors to attend a summit to discuss the matter of State and Federal Government land disposal.
3. A further letter will be sent to the Minister for Education, the Honourable Bronwyn Pike MP to provide more information about the Ruthven Joint Use Agreement.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Minutes – 16 November 2009

Council Minutes – 15 February 2010

7.3 COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT IN THE HOLMES, AGG, ROBERT AND ERIC STREET PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES**MINUTE NO. 79****AUTHOR:** Manager Aged and Disability Services – Deb Warren**MANAGER:** Director Communities and Culture – Jan Black**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Possible 2010/2011 shortfall in State Government Office of Housing funding for Council's Community Officer - Aged Housing.**SUMMARY:**

Council currently has four agreements in place with the Office of Housing in relation to three older persons public housing estates and the services provided by Council on these estates.

Since 1962 Council has had in place three agreements with the Office of Housing that provide Council with:

- (a) Sponsorship rights for the Holmes, Agg and Robert Street Public Housing Estates, a process whereby Council can nominate people with links to the area who are eligible for public housing and therefore the waiting list for access to housing for Darebin residents is significantly reduced (ie. from 5 years to approximately 12 months);
- (b) Responsibility for all maintenance and upkeep of garden areas and open spaces on these Estates; and
- (c) Responsibility for the provision of 50% of the General Rates for each Estate per annum.

It is considered that these agreements are out dated and in need of a review that clarifies Council's future role on these Estates and Council's future relationship with the Office of Housing.

In addition to the above, Council also has sponsorship rights for the 42 bed-sitter flats on the Eric Street Estate (for which residents must be 30 years of age or over) which is also in need of review.

A fourth agreement currently in place relates to funding for Council's Community Officer - Aged Housing. This Service Agreement with the Office of Housing is due to expire on 30 June 2010. There is the possibility that the Office of Housing will not renew the funding agreement under its current arrangements. The current agreement is considered to be an anomaly by the Office of Housing (OHO) and not sustainable under their current funding stream. This could result in a \$33,000 shortfall in the 2010/2011 budget for this position.

In light of the uncertainty regarding future funding and a range of issues that relate to the following:

- The degree to which Council can continue to provide the maintenance and upkeep of gardens and open space on the Estates;
- The rates rebate for each of the Estates;
- The nature of Council's sponsorship role and how it has evolved;

- The lack of clarity about the relationship between the OHO and Council's Sponsorship role and responsibility for the work undertaken by Council's Community Officer - Aged Housing;
- The array of agencies currently involved in housing support services in Darebin; and
- The work and resources of the "Our Homes Our Health" partnership

it is considered timely for Council to review its existing and future role in relation to the Council Sponsored Public Housing Estates.

CONSULTATION:

Director Communities and Culture
Coordinator Ageing Communities
Manager Social Inclusion and Diversity
Manager Family, Youth and Community Support
Department of Human Services – Office of Housing

RECOMMENDATION

THAT:

- (1) Council Officers undertake a review of Council's current and future role in relation to the Council Sponsored Public Housing Estates in Darebin and concurrently meet with the State Member for Northcote, Fiona Richardson MP, to advocate for ongoing and adequate funding for housing support services for older public housing residents in Darebin.
- (2) A report to Council on the outcomes of the review with options and recommendations for Council's consideration be prepared by no later than the end of May 2010.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT:

- (1) Council Officers undertake a review of Council's current and future role in relation to the Council Sponsored Public Housing Estates in Darebin and concurrently meet with the State Member for Northcote, Fiona Richardson MP and Rucker Ward Councillors, to advocate for ongoing and adequate funding for housing support services for older public housing residents in Darebin.
- (2) A report to Council on the outcomes of the review with options and recommendations for Council's consideration be prepared by no later than the end of May 2010.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND****Agreements in place between Council and the Office of Housing**

Council currently has four agreements in place with the Office of Housing in relation to three older persons public housing estates and the services provided by Council on these estates.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s the Housing Commission (now Department of Human Services, Office of Housing) commenced construction of three housing estates in the then City of Northcote, the three estates were developed in:

- Agg Street, Thornbury,
- Roberts Street, Northcote, (currently under re-construction), and
- Holmes Street, Northcote.

In 1995 Council's Manager, Social and Cultural Planning sought advice from the then City Valuer/Property Manager regarding Council's involvement and agreements with the Office of Housing in relation to these properties and was advised as follows:

1. “Holmes Street Flats Agreement

These 216 units are built on crown land (Allotment 89B) and a Crown Grant to the Housing Commission was issued on 24/2/1970

Pursuant to the Agreement dated **7/11/69** between Council and the Housing Commission, the Housing Commission shall decide eligibility of persons who apply for accommodation but shall also give consideration of all persons suggested by Council. If Council fails to supply any names, the Housing Commission then must give Council notice in writing that after 14 days the Council still fails to supply names, the Commission will proceed to fill vacancies.

The Agreement also states that the Housing Commission should prepare and plant garden areas and open spaces and advise Council upon completion. Following this, the agreement then stipulates that Council shall be responsible for all maintenance and upkeep of garden areas and open spaces.

Finally, Council undertook to assist the Commission in the development, upkeep and maintenance of the land, by paying to the Housing Commission in April each year one half of the General Rates for the preceding year as levied.

2. Roberts Street Flats Agreement

These 47 units are built on land previously owned by the City of Northcote that was transferred to the Housing Commission prior to the units being built.

An agreement dated **8/3/1962** stipulated the transfer of the land to the Housing Commission by the way of a gift.

This relationship is the same as the Agreement for the Holmes Street flats as set out in detail earlier.

3. Agg Street Flats Agreement

These 87 flats are built on land acquired by the Housing Commission prior to the units being built.

An agreement dated **5/10/1965** stipulated that the Housing Commission should take action to become the registered proprietor of part of land to add to adjoining land they already owned.

This agreement is the same as the two other agreements for the Holmes and Roberts Street flats as set out in detail earlier.

In essence what the above means is that since 1962 Council has had in place three agreements with the Office of Housing that provide Council with:

- (a) Sponsorship rights for these Estates, a process whereby Council can nominate people with links to the area who are eligible for public housing and therefore the waiting list for access to housing for Darebin residents is significantly reduced (ie from 5 years to approximately 12 months);

(it should be noted that in addition to sponsorship rights for the above three Older Persons Housing Estates, Council also has sponsorship rights for the 42 bed-sitter flats on the Eric Street Estate, for which residents must be 30 years of age or over)

- (b) Responsibility for all maintenance and upkeep of garden areas and open spaces on these Estates; and
- (c) Responsibility for the provision of 50% of the General Rates for each Estate per annum.

It is considered that these agreements are out dated and in need of a review that clarifies Councils future role on these Estates and Councils future relationship with the Office of Housing.

4. Service Agreement

The fourth agreement currently in place relates to funding for Council's Community Officer - Aged Housing. Council has received funding from Office of Housing (OHO) for its Aged Persons Housing Service since the 1990s under the Public Housing Infrastructure Program (*Facilities Management and Tenant Participation funding streams*). This funding provides Council \$32,556 per annum towards the salary and program costs of the Community Officer - Aged Housing position.

The OHO funding is specifically provided for a tenant liaison service on the Holmes, Agg and Edward Street Estates and for management of the community facilities at Holmes and Agg Streets. A Work Plan for Council's Community Officer - Aged Housing is developed annually between OHO and Council that outlines the objectives and expected outcomes of the funding. Council fully funds the sponsorship component of the role and the case work and community development aspects of the role.

The current Service Agreement with the Office of Housing is due to expire on 30 June 2010. The OHO in quarterly Service Monitoring and Review meetings with Council Officers throughout 2009 have expressed their desire to cease and therefore not renew the funding agreement under its current arrangements. The current agreement is considered to be an anomaly by OHO and not sustainable under their current funding stream.

Council officers have been advised by the North West Department of Health - Aged Care Branch that there is possible future funding via the Older Person's High Rise Support Program for the Holmes Street Estate. However, there are no guarantees that such will be forthcoming and further that if funding is secured it would not be a substitute for the \$32,556 OHO funding received currently by Council. Rather, it would be a whole new funding agreement with new terms and conditions for the Holmes Street Estate only; and not necessarily provided to Council but to the standard auspice agencies for Older Persons High Rise Support program funding such as the Salvation Army, Community Health Centres and Housing Support agencies.

CORE ISSUES

Eric Street Estate

Council has received correspondence over the past 2 years regarding some of the anti-social behaviour taking place at the Eric Street Estate. In 2008 and 2009 the Mayor of the day corresponded and met with the residents of Hope Street to better understand their concerns. A key factor, however, is that the single bed-sitter style of accommodation offered at this estate limits the potential tenant mix that can be achieved at the estate.

Council has been clear this is a matter for State Government given it is a OHO property although Council does play some role in nominating tenants to live at the site through its sponsorship role.

Officers have met with the OHO at their request to discuss options for redeveloping the site. The OHO is prepared to redevelop the units and rebuild more appropriate accommodation which would address many of the issues present in the flats.

To progress this work and prior to proceeding with plans to redevelop the site the OHO requires clarification from Council on the role of Council in sponsorship of tenants.

The need for a Review

In light of the uncertainty regarding future funding and a range of issues that relate to the following:

- The degree to which Council can continue to provide the maintenance and upkeep of gardens and open space on the older persons estates;
- The rates rebate for each of the older persons estates;
- The nature of Council's sponsorship role and how it has evolved on the Holmes and Agg Street Estates in relation to older persons sponsorship; and also the Eric Street Public Housing Estate for younger persons sponsorship;
- The lack of clarity about the relationship between the OHO and Council's Sponsorship role and responsibility for the work undertaken by Council's Community Officer - Aged Housing;
- The array of agencies currently involved in housing support services in Darebin; and
- The work and resources of the "Our Homes Our Health" partnership

it is considered timely for Council to review its existing and future role in relation to the Council Sponsored Public Housing Estates.

The process for the review would be as follows:

- (1) To gather and analyse data on the efficacy of Council's Sponsorship role;

- (2) To seek legal advice on the options for Council regarding revised and/or new agreements with the Office of Housing ;
- (3) To conduct high level discussions with the OHO following legal advice on the agreement options;
- (4) To map the current housing and support roles of agencies and partnerships across the municipality (eg. Home ground, Merri Outreach, OHO, Neighbourhood Houses, Darebin Community Health, Spectrum MRC, Salvation Army and the “Our Homes Our Health” partnership) and examine Council’s future housing support/community development role accordingly;
- (5) To provide a report to Council by no later than the end of May 2010 that clearly articulates Council’s future role and resource capacity on Public Housing Estates.

Importantly, during the review process, Council Senior Officers will continue to strongly advocate for recurrent resources to ensure that there is adequate and ongoing support for Darebin public housing tenants for whatever the next iteration of Council’s role will be.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

In relation to Public Housing in general, the public housing tenant profile is now more commonly representative of pension and benefit dependant single income households. Individuals have high and complex needs that require other types of services to help them maintain stable accommodation. This group of tenants comprise those who are aged, disabled, in poor health and in many cases, experience multiple levels of disadvantage through, for example, mental illness, cognitive deficit, domestic violence and substance/dependency abuse.¹

During the proposed review process Council Senior Officers will advocate strongly with all relevant stakeholders and funding bodies to ensure ongoing and adequate resources are available for housing support services for public housing residents in Darebin.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Possible 2010/2011 shortfall in State Government Office of Housing funding for Council’s Community Officer - Aged Housing position.

¹ Department of Human Services Evaluation of the Social Housing Advocacy Support Program (SHASP)
August 2009

FUTURE ACTIONS

Review of Council's current and future role in relation to the Council Sponsored Public Housing Estates be undertaken.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Memo to Manager, Social and Cultural Planning from City Valuer/Property Manager - Northcote, 20 March, 1995: Details of Council Involvement in M.O.H accommodation in Holmes, Roberts and AGG Streets.

**7.4 SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY
AND FUTURE OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN VICTORIA**

MINUTE NO. 80

AUTHOR: Housing Project Worker - Andrea Levey

MANAGER: Manager Social Inclusion and Diversity - John Smith

**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil.

SUMMARY:

This report provides a submission to the *Inquiry into the Adequacy and Future Directions of Public Housing in Victoria* currently under consideration by the Family and Community Development Committee of the Parliament of Victoria.

CONSULTATION:

Council officers, the Council to Homeless Persons, Homeground Services.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council endorse the submission to the *Inquiry into the Adequacy and Future Directions of Public Housing in Victoria* attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Legislative Council has requested the Family and Community Development Committee of Parliament to inquire into the adequacy and future directions of public housing in Victoria.

Key non government agencies, along with the Victorian Local Governance Association have presented to the Inquiry and a limited number of local government authorities have also provided submissions to the Inquiry.

Specifically the Inquiry is seeking to explore issues associated with:

- Public housing waiting lists in Victoria;
- The impact on individuals and families of waiting times to access public housing and how this varies by each segment;

- The adequacy, quality and standards of Victorian public housing;
- The safety and location of Victorian public housing and public housing estates; and
- The impact of public housing need on specific Groups.

The attached submission (see **Appendix A**) provides responses to each of these issues. The direction of the submission supports the policy directions foreshadowed in the *Responding to Housing Stress* paper which is currently in consultation.

CORE ISSUES

Housing in Darebin is becoming increasingly less accessible to people on low incomes and is likely to remain so without significant intervention from all forms of government.

Making the links between affordable housing, housing stress, homelessness, mental health, social wellbeing, economic participation and social connectedness is critical for developing and maintaining strong vibrant communities and an inclusive society. The right to housing as a foundation for wellbeing is now well established.

The current wait list for the Office of Housing for the North West of Melbourne is over 15,000. This is an unacceptable number of people. Current wait times are so long for general wait turn housing that people who are eligible often do not apply as they cannot envisage that they will ever be accommodated.

Whilst there has been a recent increase in funding to social housing and greater commitment to public housing than has been displayed in recent years, current supply is still clearly inadequate.

The general position adopted in the submission is summarised in the following statements:

- Council is supportive of recent moves to improve public housing in Darebin and to increase supply. Council also values the ongoing relationship with the Office of Housing in the development of innovative models and clearer policy that supports public housing.
- Council strongly supports the expansion of state administered public housing in Darebin, particularly in the southern half of the City.
- Council believes that adequacy in relation to public housing is a function of several factors, particularly:
 - Sufficiency of supply
 - Appropriateness to need
 - Satisfactoriness of formal and informal support
 - Sustainability in terms of resources needed to maintain and manage the accommodation
 - Integration and connection with community in terms of amenity and opportunities for social capital.
- Council seeks every opportunity to work with the Department of Human Services, Office of Housing and the Department of Planning and Community Development to maintain and increase the stock of public rental housing in Darebin by:
 - Continuing Council involvement in the Local Action on Affordable Housing project with a view to developing an Integrated Housing Strategy with a strong focus on alleviating housing stress.

- Continuing to work cooperatively to develop new forms of public housing in Darebin appropriate to our social mix.
- Establishing cooperative processes to plan for the future provision of public housing in Darebin.
- Encouraging the development of innovative forms of public housing in Darebin such as the Common Ground and Youth Foyer models.
- Establishing processes to jointly identify opportunities to increase the supply of public housing in the southern end of the Municipality.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The attached submission (**Appendix A**) clearly supports Environmentally Sustainable Design principles and recommends that these are applied to all public housing new buildings. Environmentally sustainable housing is more likely to also be financially sustainable in the long term and provide a basis for improved health, wellbeing and community connection.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Safe, appropriate and sustainable housing is a fundamental requirement for an inclusive community. Appropriate housing enables people to connect to community, to participate in the economy and to be engaged in education and training, among other things. Failure to provide adequate public housing and associated support and assistance programs will mean that people on low incomes are less likely to find a home in Darebin and will need to seek less expensive housing in other municipalities. The impact on particularly vulnerable groups will be severe and it is likely that Darebin will lose some dimensions of our Diversity as older single people, single parent families, Aboriginal people, newly-arrived migrants and refugees are forced to move out of the municipality.

Other

Public housing is an important element of housing policy. Council policy, partially reflected in the attached submission (**Appendix A**) will be captured in the Darebin Integrated Housing Strategy and in the Municipal Strategic Statement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Public housing may be seen as a public good and/or as a response to market failure. In Australia, local government authorities do not provide public housing, but rather it is provided by State Governments through a series of agreements with the Commonwealth. It can be argued, however, that where the response to market failure is inadequate – when the supply of public housing is insufficient or inappropriate – significant costs are borne by other welfare providers. The attached (**Appendix A**) submission does not address the financial implications of inadequate public housing supply for local government, but it is true that local government programs, including our Aged and Disability and Family Support programs work with large numbers of people who are inadequately housed or in housing stress. More work could be done to determine the cost of housing stress on our services.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The attached submission (**Appendix A**) will be provided to the *Inquiry into the Adequacy and Future of Public Housing in Victoria*.

The policy positions included in the submission will be incorporated into the Housing Stress Project and ultimately into the draft Integrated Housing Strategy

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Responding to Housing Stress paper. A draft action strategy August 2009.

Homeground Services Submission to the Inquiry on the Adequacy and Future Directions of Public Housing in Victoria.

7.5 BENAMBRA STREET PRESTON**MINUTE NO. 81****AUTHOR:** Transport Engineer – Daniel Neave**MANAGER:** Manager Major Projects and Transport – Nick Mazarella**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within budget for 2009 / 2010.**SUMMARY:**

This report provides information and recommendations in response to the following Council resolution passed on 17 August 2009:

“That Council Officers conduct a Local Area Traffic Management Study around Benambra Street Preston. Particular attention needs to be paid to the investigation of a ‘No Right Turn’ sign from Gilbert Road into Benambra Street. Council officers to consult residents of Benambra Street as to their views on the installation of a ‘No Right Turn’ sign and other traffic management measures. Officers to advise residents that matter was raised at the Council meeting on 17 August 2009”.

CONSULTATION:

205 properties within the study area

VicRoads

Yarra Trams

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

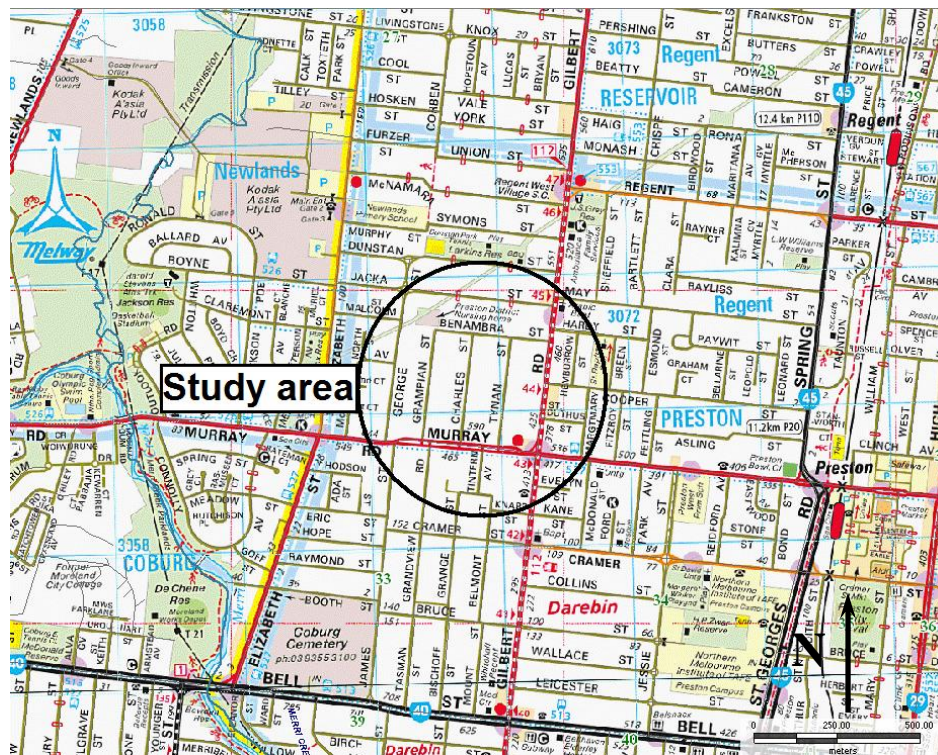
- (1) Council receive and note this report.
- (2) Due to the relatively low volume of traffic and low resident support, no new traffic management devices are required at the intersection of Gilbert Road and Benambra Street Preston.
- (3) Officers continue the ‘Not So Fast’ program within the study area (Education, Encouragement and Enforcement).
- (4) Local residents be notified of the outcome of this report and be sent information on the ‘Hoon Hotline’.
- (5) Officers continue to monitor traffic within the study area.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Officers have conducted a Local Area Traffic Management Study for Benambra Street, Grampian Street, Charles Street and Tynan Street (the study area) including assessments of: vehicle speeds; traffic volumes; crashes resulting in injury; public transport, freight, and emergency vehicles requirements; as well as consultation with residents living within the study area. Officers have also consulted with VicRoads and Yarra Trams regarding how proposed treatments would affect traffic and public transport around the site.



Map produced by Melways, with permission.

CORE ISSUES

Vehicle Speeds

Recent traffic surveys show that the 85th percentile vehicle speeds are approximately 57 km/h on Grampian Street and 59 km/h on Benambra Street. These speeds are higher than expected for local roads and, as such, Council officers have begun a program of education, encouragement, and enforcement in Grampian Street, which will be expanded into Benambra Street within the next 3 months.

- Education

Council officers will send a letter to all residents of Grampian Street and Benambra Street explaining the importance of complying with the statutory speed limit and suggesting ways to promote slower speeds in their streets.

- Encouragement

Council officers will locate the speed advisory trailer in Grampian Street and Benambra Street to encourage drivers to comply with statutory speed limits. It is important to note that there is a 9 month waiting list for the speed advisory trailer.

- **Enforcement**

Police enforcement has been requested following the education and encouragement phases of this program.

Traffic speeds in Charles Street and Tynan Street are within acceptable variations of the speed limit.

Traffic Volumes

Roads in the study area currently provide access to 205 residential properties. According to traffic generation figures provided by the Australian Institute of Statistics, this number of dwellings in an average street will generate approximately 800 vehicle trips per day, with approximately 160 of those trips being made during the morning and evening peak hours. Recent traffic surveys show that Benambra Street carries approximately 1,000 vehicles per day with approximately 100 vehicles travelling west in the morning peak (7am-8am).

Grampian Street carries approximately 700 vehicles per day with approximately 90 vehicles travelling south in the morning peak (7am-8am).

Charles Street and Tynan Street carry approximately 300 vehicles per day with no noticeable increase during peak times.

By comparing the traffic volumes of Benambra Street and Grampian Street during morning and afternoon peak hours, officers are able to estimate that approximately 60 vehicles are using the Benambra Street Grampian Street link to avoid the right turn at the Gilbert Road and Murray Road signals. Although this shows that there may be some through traffic using these roads during the morning peak hour, the scale of the issue is such that engineering treatments are not warranted.

Crash Analysis

Within the last five years, there has been one crash resulting in an injury in the study area. This crash involved a pedestrian being struck by a vehicle entering/leaving a driveway and resulted in a serious injury. There does not seem to be any evidence of crashes caused by through traffic.

Public Transport

Yarra Trams is concerned about possible delays to services resulting from additional traffic at the signalised intersection of Murray Road and Gilbert Road. Before Yarra Trams would be willing to support a right turn ban or any other traffic management treatments, they would require a SIDRA (computational analysis) intersection analysis showing that any changes would not result in delays to tram services.

Bus services will not be affected by any proposed treatments.

Emergency Vehicles

Emergency service organisations have expressed concerns regarding the affect that traffic management devices might have on response times.

Freight

There are no land uses within the study area that generate large numbers of heavy vehicle trips. Recent traffic surveys show that approximately 1% of vehicles within the study area are commercial vehicles.

VicRoads

VicRoads have stated that they would support a traffic management treatment at the intersection of Gilbert Road and Benambra Street if residents support the project.

Consultation

As requested by Council, a public opinion survey was sent to the 205 properties regarding possible traffic management treatments at the intersection of Gilbert Road and Benambra Street, Preston. The survey asked residents whether a 'Right Turn Ban' or similar traffic management treatment would be beneficial to the area.

44% of surveys were returned within the survey period.

Surveys sent	Responses Received	Response Rate
205	90	44%

The following is a synopsis of the responses to the consultation:

Response	Responses	% of responses
Keep Existing	62	69%
Right Turn Ban	17	18.9%
One Way Street	4	4.4%
Road Closure	4	4.4%
No Opinion	2	2.2%
Letter returned	1	1.1%
Total	90	100%

In general, those residents that suggested that Council "Keep Existing" situation stated that:

- Traffic management is not required at this location, or
- Traffic management would cause more problems than it would solve.

The responses also identified an element of 'hoon' driving behaviour happening within the study area.

'Hoon Behaviour'

Traffic engineering treatments are only useful in addressing more general speeding issues and do not reduce 'hoon' behaviour. Counter-intuitively, traffic calming treatments have often been shown to encourage more dangerous "hoon" behaviour, as traffic management and calming treatments are frequently seen as challenges by this element of society.

The Victorian Government, in an attempt to address the issue of "hoon" driving, have run a number of education campaigns as well as establishing the Crime Stoppers "Hoon Hotline" (1800 333 000). By reporting "hoon" behaviour to Crime Stoppers, residents can help to build up a database of vehicles

used by “hoon” drivers, which can then be used by the Police to track offenders and confiscate vehicles. This approach specifically targets the “hoon” driver, rather than placing an unreasonable cost for ineffective engineering treatments on a wider community that drives in an acceptable fashion. Officers will send information regarding the “Hoon Hotline” to the residents of the study area.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

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

Social Inclusion and Diversity

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

Other

This report reflects the policies and actions detailed in the Darebin Transport Strategy 2007.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of mail-outs and traffic surveys will be accommodated within existing budgets.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Officers to inform properties within the study area the outcome of this report.
- Officers to continue the education, encouragement, and enforcement program for the study area.
- Officers will send information regarding the “Hoon Hotline” to the residents of the study area.
- Officers will continue to monitor traffic in the study area.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin Transport Strategy 2007 - 2027
- Traffic surveys taken in the study area, September 2009.

7.6 EARTH HOUR 27 MARCH 2010**MINUTE NO. 82**

AUTHOR: Environmental Education and Promotions Coordinator - Rebecca Petit

MANAGER: Coordinator Environmental Strategy - Michelle Bennett

**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil

SUMMARY:

Earth Hour is a global initiative to raise awareness and encourage action on Climate Change through the symbolic turning off of lights for one hour - this year starting at 8.30pm on Saturday 27 March 2010.

This report recommends that Council officially sign up for *Earth Hour* and turn off non-essential lighting including façade lighting at the Darebin Civic Centre and Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.

Darebin will also encourage local residents and businesses to participate in *Earth Hour* and provide appropriate support to community groups running events on the evening.

CONSULTATION:

There is a high level of concern about Climate Change in the Darebin community as indicated in Community Survey results and via consultation for the Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan.

Facility Managers and relevant staff have been consulted regarding opportunities for turning off Council lights during *Earth Hour*. Economic Development has been consulted and will support the distribution of *Earth Hour* information to Darebin businesses. Darebin Climate Action Now and Transition Darebin were yet to finalise their activities for *Earth Hour* at the time of writing this report. Members of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action were consulted regarding their *Earth Hour* activities.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT Council Participate in *Earth Hour* on 27 March 2010 and encourage the Darebin community to participate in *Earth Hour*.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Earth Hour commenced on 31 March 2007 when 2.2 million people and 2100 Sydney businesses turned off their lights for one hour – *Earth Hour*. This massive collective effort reduced Sydney's energy consumption by 10% for one hour, which is the equivalent effect of taking 48,000 cars off the road for one hour.

With Sydney icons like the Harbour Bridge and Opera House turning their lights off the world took notice. Inspired by the collective effort of millions of Sydneysiders, many major global cities joined *Earth Hour* in 2008, turning a symbolic event into a global movement.

Individuals, businesses and organisations can sign up for *Earth Hour 2010* by visiting the *Earth Hour* website (www.earthhour.org) and committing to turn off their lights on 27 March 2010 from 8:30 to 9:30 pm, and continue to take action to reduce emissions. In addition, individual participants can resolve to reduce their ecological footprint determined by using the *Earth Hour* Footprint Calculator <http://www.earthhour.org.au/earth-hour-wwf/footprint-calculator/footprint-calculator>.

Earth Hour is an opportunity for further awareness raising about Climate Change and what individuals, businesses and governments can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The City of Melbourne, and some metropolitan Councils will be participating in *Earth Hour 2010*.

CORE ISSUES

Climate change is a critical and urgent issue for our community and future. Darebin City Council is committed to providing the necessary leadership and direction to reduce greenhouse emissions to ensure that the impacts of climate change are minimised. Council has been implementing the detailed and ambitious actions of the Climate Change Action Plan to tackle the emissions generated by Council activities. As a result, Council's own 2010 emissions reduction target (20% reduction on 1995 emission levels) was achieved ahead of time in the 2008/2009 financial year.

Earth Hour is an opportunity for Council to further raise awareness of Climate Change and actions households and businesses can take to reduce emissions. Darebin's Community Climate Change Action Plan provides the strategic basis for Council to promote climate change action and support the community to reduce emissions. Key Programs/initiatives that support greenhouse reduction include:

Solar Hot Water Roll-out – Council has been taking registrations of interests from households, small businesses and community organisations wanting to participate in a bulk buying program for solar hot water systems. To date there have been over 800 registrations for the program. A series of four information sessions are planned for April 2010.

The Energy and Water Task Force – is coordinated by Sustainability Victoria and supported by Darebin Council. It is free of charge to households in the suburbs of Northcote, Westgarth, Fairfield, Alphington, Thornbury, East Preston and East Reservoir that have a Centrelink Health Care or Pensioner Concession card. The task force assesses the energy and water efficiency of a home and where required install energy and water saving products.

Talking My Language – works in partnership with Darebin's Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. Community members provide input into the development and translation of culturally relevant energy efficiency information and delivery or a face to face event.

Community Power – which reduces community emissions by encouraging households and businesses to sign up to accredited GreenPower and through energy efficiency programs.

Going Places – is Darebin's travel reward program that offers incentives to participants who reduce their car based travel by at least two trips a week.

Green Travel Plans – interested schools and businesses can contact Council to receive assistance in developing a green travel plan.

Environmental Seminars and Events – with the completion of the funded Sustainable Homes Program in 2009, seminars and events are yet to be scheduled. At least one energy efficiency seminar will be held and climate change action will be widely promoted at the Darebin Kite Festival in March 2010.

***Earth Hour* in Council Operations**

Council participation is generally limited to venues where safety will not be compromised. For example street lights and venues where events require lighting for safety/security will not be able to turn off all lighting. Many Council buildings are not operating on Saturday evenings and only have security lighting operating. Our key municipal buildings and function centres are the main buildings that would be operating at the time and non essential lighting will be turned off in these where possible. Facade lighting at the Darebin Civic Centre and Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre will be switched off during *Earth Hour*. Unfortunately, at Reservoir Civic Centre and Northcote Town Hall facade lighting is linked with security lighting and cannot be separately switched off.

Darebin venues, businesses and the community will be invited to participate in the hour via notices in Darebin's Business Update and Sustainability News, a media release and through Darebin's website. Participation in the event is voluntary.

Community Events

Darebin Climate Action Now and Transition Darebin are likely to host community events coinciding with *Earth Hour* yet at the time of writing this report details were yet to be finalised. These activities will be supported and promoted to the extent they fit with Council priorities.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Environmental Sustainability

Earth Hour is a further opportunity to raise awareness and promote climate change action to the community.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Within Current Budget

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Darebin Council staff will liaise with Darebin Climate Action Now and Transition Darebin to determine support for community events.
- Darebin venues, businesses and the community will be invited to participate in *Earth Hour* via notices in Darebin's Business Update and Sustainability News, a media release and through Darebin's website.
- Non essential lights will be turned off for *Earth Hour* on 27 March 2010.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Darebin's Climate Change Action Plan 2007-2009

Darebin Community Climate Change Action Plan

7.7 STATUS REPORT ON REPORTS AND 'GENERAL BUSINESS' ITEMS OUTSTANDING

MINUTE NO. 83

AUTHOR: Council Business Coordinator – Ron Downes**MANAGER:** Director Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

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

CONSULTATION:

Executive Management Team

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. D. Asmar**SECONDED:** Cr. N. Katsis

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

CARRIED**REPORT****CORE ISSUES**

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

A schedule of the reports and actions outstanding as at February 2010 is attached as **Appendix A**.

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

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Nil.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

FUTURE ACTIONS

The next status report will be submitted to Council at its meeting on 6 April 2010.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Minutes of previous meetings of the Council.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS**9.1 TRAFFIC ISSUES – CORNER OF BEATTY STREET AND CAMERON STREET RESERVOIR**

MINUTE NO. 84

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council undertake an investigation of traffic and speed on the corner of Beatty Street and Cameron Street Reservoir for the possible implementation of traffic calming measures. Particular attention needs to be paid to location of bollard poles, vehicle access to the laneway (Birdwood Street), adjoining Beatty and Cameron Streets.

Council Officers write to residents outlining this resolution and that this matter was raised at the Council meeting on 1 March 2010.

CARRIED

9.2 MS RUBY HUNTER

MINUTE NO. 85

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council recognise the recent passing of Ms Ruby Hunter and her great contribution to the music industry, as well as our indigenous and non-indigenous community.

CARRIED

9.3

LETTER OF THANKS TO MICHAEL ULBRICK

MINUTE NO. 86

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the Mayor write a letter on behalf of the Council to Mr Michael Ulbrick and thank him for the contribution he has made to the Council during the time he was Chief Executive Officer of the City.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9.4

**PROTECTION OF COMMUNITY ASSETS AND
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DURING CONSTRUCTION
ACTIVITIES**

In submitting this item, Cr. Tsitas tabled a copy of email advice received from a Northcote resident regarding this matter.

MINUTE NO. 87

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT Council officers report back on:

- (1) What processes Council has in place by which to engage with building companies when their construction activities impact on both public amenity and public open space.
- (2) What community engagement, if any, does Council undertake either by way of erecting public signage or written correspondence to nearby affected residents, advising them of the 'temporary' inconvenience during the construction period and when things will return to normal.
- (3) What recompense is made to the Council for any damage that has been sustained during the demolition/construction phase to community assets, such as parks and basic infrastructure such as footpaths and/or crossovers.

CARRIED

10. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL**CLOSE OF MEETING****MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang****SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar**

THAT in accordance with section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the following items which relate to contractual matters:

10.1 Tender for the Lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse – CT0997

10.2 Refurbishment of the former Larundel Ward for the new Lancaster Gate Community Centre, Bundoora – CT200920.

CARRIED

The meeting was closed to members of the public at 8.19pm.

The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 10.1 (Tender for the Lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse – CT0997) and Report Item 10.2 (Refurbishment of the former Larundel Ward for the new Lancaster Gate Community Centre, Bundoora – CT200920), which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 25 February 2010 with the Council Agenda Paper.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING**MOVED: Cr. D. Asmar****SECONDED: Cr. S. Chiang**

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

CARRIED

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 8.23pm.

CONFIDENTIAL**10.1 TENDER FOR THE LEASE OF THE EDWARDES LAKE
PARK BOATHOUSE – CT0997****MINUTE NO. 88****AUTHOR: Manager, Asset Strategy – Anita Craven****MANAGER: Director Infrastructure – Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Nil.****SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse, Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir for the purposes redeveloping the building and conducting a café / restaurant from the premises.

This report provides the outcome of the tender for the lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse (CT0997)

Council deferred consideration of the matter at its meeting on 1 February 2010 until this meeting of Council and resolved that officers report back with details of plans and financials submitted by the short listed tenderers.

CONSULTATION:

Director, Infrastructure
Property Manager, Property Management
Project Officer, Major Projects
Robert Butera – Jones Lang LaSalle
Manager, Corporate Governance
Macquarie Lawyers

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. C. Chiang
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) *Council not accept any tender for the lease of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse, Edwardes Lake Park, Reservoir (CT0977) for the purposes of conducting a café / restaurant from the premises.*
- (2) *A survey be completed with all parties that expressed an interest in the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse Tender to gain an understanding of why they did not submit an application as part of the tender process.*
- (3) *Council Officers continue to investigate opportunities for increased community usage of the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse in the interim.*
- (4) *Funding for a feasibility study of conducting a café / restaurant from the Edwardes Lake Park Boathouse be referred to the 2010/2011 budget for consideration.”*

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**10.2 REFURBISHMENT OF THE FORMER LARUNDEL WARD
FOR THE NEW LANCASTER GATE COMMUNITY CENTRE,
BUNDOORA – CT200920****MINUTE NO. 89****AUTHOR: Manager Transport and Major Projects – Nick Mazarella****MANAGER: Director Infrastructure – Geoff Glynn****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: This contract is within the budget allocation for (2009/2010 and 2010/2011):****SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the refurbishment of the former Larundel Ward, for the new Lancaster Gate community centre in Bundoora. The scope of the contract requires the coordination of suppliers and sub-contractors with the capacity and resources to undertake the refurbishment works within a tight timeframe.

This report recommends that the tender submission from MMAP Construction Pty Ltd be accepted by Council along with an appropriate contingency sum.

CONSULTATION:

Consultation to date has included:

- VicUrban
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Federal Government) – funding agent.

A community consultation and stakeholder engagement plan has been prepared to guide the engagement of:

- Residents and the local community (through the Community Reference Committee)
- Councillors and Council Staff
- Interested community organisations.

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Chiang
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That Council resolves:

- (1) To accept the tender submission of MMAP Constructions Pty Ltd.*
- (2) To enter into a contract for the Refurbishment of the Former Larundel Ward, for the new Lancaster Gate community centre in Bundoora [CT200920] for the amount of \$4,514,795 (including \$410,436 GST).*
- (3) To allocate a contingency amount of \$400,000 (excluding GST), being approximately 10% of the contract sum.*
- (4) To sign and seal the contracts under the Common Seal of Darebin City Council.”*

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

CARRIED

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.