



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

TUESDAY, 6 APRIL 2010

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 8 APRIL 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 TUESDAY 6 APRIL 2010**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.03 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
Dean Griggs – Acting Director Communities and Culture
Bruce Dobson – Director Corporate Services
Geoff Glynn – Director Infrastructure
Michael Ballock – Director Development and Amenity
Libby Hynes – Executive Manager Environmental Sustainability
Ray McQuillen – Manager Corporate Governance
Katrina Knox – Manager Darebin Libraries
Kylie Long – Strategic Planner
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

2. APOLOGIES

Nil.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in Report No. 7.11 (Disabled parking Bay Relocation – 806 High Street Thornbury) – see page 82.

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. D. Asmar
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

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

CARRIED

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. D. Asmar
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 29 March 2010 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

CARRIED

5. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

MINUTE NO. 109

5.1 REPORT OF CR. BEN MORGAN

Cr. Morgan welcomed everyone back to the Council Chamber following the Easter break and reported on his attendance at the following functions/activities:

- Visit to Sacred Heart Primary School.
- Local constituent matters.

5.2 REPORT OF CR. GAETANO GRECO

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

- Civic Welcome for International students.
- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council meeting.
- Briefing with local Members of Parliament.
- Cultural Diversity Week Gala Dinner.
- Apprenticeships Plus and Inner Northern Group Training Board meeting.
- “The Kenneth Jack View” at Bundoora Homestead.

5.3 REPORT OF CR. TRENT MCCARTHY

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

- Leisure Strategy Steering Committee meeting.
- Special Council Briefing – Preston Civic Precinct.
- “A Taste of Harmony” – Municipal Association of Victoria.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Briefing with local Members of Parliament.
- Various planning and enforcement issues involving local residents.

Cr. McCarthy took the opportunity to congratulate comedians from Darebin involved with the 2010 Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

5.4 REPORT OF CR. STANLEY CHIANG

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

- Civic Welcome for International students.
- Briefing with local Members of Parliament.
- Chinese Cultural School Award ceremony.

- Cultural Diversity Week Gala Dinner.
- 3CW Chinese Radio Melbourne.
- Chinese New Year celebrations.
- Chinese Television Station interview.

5.5 REPORT OF CR. NICK KATSI

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

- Briefing with local Members of Parliament.
- Special Council Briefing Session - Council Budget.
- Special Council Briefing – Preston Civic Precinct.
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Local resident issues.

5.6 REPORT OF CR. DIANA ASMAR

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

- Alawi Islamic Association Dinner Dance.
- Leisure Strategy Steering Committee meeting.
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting.
- Briefing with local Members of Parliament.
- Special Council Briefing Session - Council Budget.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Local resident issues.

5.7 REPORT OF CR. TIM LAURENCE

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

- Community Newspaper Feasibility Committee meeting.
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria function.
- Housing Advisory Committee meeting.
- Darebin Chargers Cricket Club Presentation Night.
- Chief Executive Officer Performance Review Committee meeting.
- Mission Australia function.
- Civic Welcome for International students.
- Planning Committee meeting.
- Briefing with local Members of Parliament.

- Resident and trader issues.

5.8 REPORT OF CR. STEVEN TSITAS

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

- Council Briefing Session.
- Special Council Meeting – Appointment of new Chief Executive Officer.
- Special Council Briefing Session - Council Budget.
- Briefing with local Members of Parliament.
- Opening of new building extension at Westgarth Primary School.
- Special Council Briefing – Preston Civic Precinct.
- Local resident issues.

5.9 REPORT OF THE MAYOR, CR. VINCE FONTANA

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

- Sustainability Accord Launch at Reservoir Civic Centre.
- Civic Welcome for International students.
- Northern Business Association breakfast function.
- Merri Creek Bridge Name Selection Committee meeting.
- Darebin Women's Advisory Group meeting.
- 2010 VicRoads Department of Transport and Inner Northern Strategic Municipal Forum.
- Briefing with local Members of Parliament.
- Network of Italian Mayors and Councillors (NIMAC) meeting.
- School Visit – St Stephens Primary.
- Municipal Association of Victoria Advocacy in Local Government Forum.
- Welcomed a delegation from Yunnan province, China.
- 'Round table on Pathways' discussion with Education Department and local government representatives from the Northern Western Metro Region.
- Preston Girls Secondary College.
- 75th Annual Preston Garden Show.
- Preston Pirates Baseball Club 100th Anniversary Dinner.
- Northcote Swimming and Life Saving Club Championships.
- Inaugural Good Samaritan Day at Parliament House.
- Opening of the Merri Creek Pipe Bridge.
- Alawi Islamic Association Dinner Dance.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

MINUTE NO. 110

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

There were no questions submitted from members of the public gallery.

7. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

7.1 REVIEW OF COUNCIL PLAN 2009-2013

MINUTE NO. 111

AUTHOR: Manager Business Improvement - Rhys Thomas

MANAGER: Director Corporate Services - Bruce Dobson

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Nil.

SUMMARY:

The Local Government Act requires that Councils review their Council Plan once in each financial year to determine if it requires any adjustment. This report presents the outcomes of the review that took place in February 2010 and recommends that no adjustments be made to the Council Plan.

CONSULTATION:

The Council Plan 2009-2013 was developed following an extensive consultation program in early 2009. As this report proposes no change to the Council Plan, no further community consultation has been conducted.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council note the outcomes of its review of *Our People, Our Place, Our Future – City of Darebin Council Plan 2009-2013* and confirm that the document does not require any adjustment.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Shortly after its election in November 2008, the Darebin City Council began work on the development of a Council Plan. The Local Government Act 1989 required that the City of Darebin adopt a Council Plan by 30 June 2009 which included:

- The strategic objectives of the Council [s125(2)(a)],
- Strategies for achieving the objectives for at least the next 4 years [s125(2)(b)],
- Strategic indicators for monitoring the achievement of the objectives [s125(2)(c)], and
- A Strategic Resource Plan [s125(2)(d)].

Following an extensive consultation process, Council adopted its Council Plan 2009-2013 in June 2009. The plan, titled *Our People, Our Place, Our Future – City of Darebin Council Plan 2009-2013* included:

- A promise to the community.
- Six shared goals (referred to in the Local Government Act as strategic objectives).
- Forty-five strategies to achieve those goals.
- Twenty-five strategic indicators to monitor the goals.
- A Strategic Resource Plan showing the resources required to achieve the goals.

Section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 requires that:

- “(7) *At least once in each financial year, a Council must consider whether the current Council Plan requires any adjustment in respect of the remaining period of the Council Plan.*
- (8) *Subject to sub-sections (9) and (10), a Council may make any adjustment it considers necessary to the Council Plan.*
- (9) *A person has a right to make a submission under section 223 on a proposed adjustment to a Council Plan which relates to a matter specified under subsection (2)(a), (2)(b) or (2)(c).*
- (10) *If a Council makes an adjustment to the Council Plan, the Council must within 30 days of making the adjustment advise the Minister of the details of the adjustment to the Council Plan.”*

Given this requirement, the need for adjustments to the Council Plan was considered at Council’s annual planning workshop on 19-21 February 2010.

CORE ISSUES

A Council discussion of the continued relevance of the Council Plan 2009-2013 was held at the Councillors’ Workshop on 19-21 February 2010, where the prevailing view was that the strategic focus of the existing Council Plan was still relevant, and did not require alteration.

In previous years, Council has reviewed the Council Plan at its planning workshop in February (or thereabouts), but the formal presentation of the outcomes of this review to Council has been delayed until May, to coincide with the Annual Budget process for the following financial year.

This has been necessary because of a requirement that any change to the Strategic Resource Plan (a part of the Council Plan) would necessitate a public exhibition process under s223 of the Local Government Act. To reduce the cost of this exercise, this has been delayed so it could be combined with a similar process triggered by the adoption of the proposed Council Budget.

This provision has since changed, meaning that mid-term changes to the Strategic Resource Plan no longer require a statutory exhibition process. This change is in recognition of the fact that the annual budget process provides a suitable avenue for the public to be heard in relation to financial matters.

Due to this change, it is now possible to present the outcomes of the Council Plan review to Council without delay, improving transparency in the process. A change to the Strategic Resource Plan will still be required, and this shall be presented to Council in May 2010.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**Environmental Sustainability**

The Council Plan 2009-2013 provides a specific policy commitment to environmental sustainability. A decision to leave the plan unchanged ensures this policy commitment remains.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Council Plan 2009-2013 provides a broad policy context for Council's social inclusion and diversity agenda. A decision to leave the plan unchanged ensures this policy commitment remains.

Other

By making no changes to the Council Plan 2009-2013, there is no risk of making unintended changes in Council policy intent or emphasis.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A decision to leave the Council Plan unaltered would result in no cost to Council.

A decision to make a change to the Council Plan resulting in a need to reprint the document in suitable quantities for Council staff and members of the public would cost approximately \$10,000. No allowance has been made for this amount in Council's budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

A revised Strategic Resource Plan will be presented to Council in May 2010, in conjunction with the 2010/2011 Council Budget.

A detailed action plan for the implementation of the second year of the Council Plan 2009-2013 will be prepared and presented to Council in conjunction with the 2010/2011 Council Budget.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Our People, Our Place, Our Future - Council Plan 2009-2013 – see **Appendix A** attached.

7.2 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMIT – 850 PLENTY ROAD RESERVOIR**MINUTE NO. 112****AUTHOR: Team Leader Statutory Planning - Julie Smout****MANAGER: Director Development and Amenity - Michael Ballock****BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS: Nil****SUMMARY:**

Application for Planning Permit D889/2009 to construct a mixed use development comprising 319 dwellings, shops, offices, child care centre, medical centre, gymnasium, contained within buildings ranging from two (2) to 12 storeys at 850 Plenty Road, Reservoir has been received by Council.

Because of the size and location of the property, the Planning Committee resolved that the application be referred to Council for consideration and decision.

This report recommends that a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit be issued subject to conditions.

CONSULTATION:

Notice of the application was given by placing notices on site and sending notices in the mail to adjoining and surrounding owners and occupiers.

A consultation meeting was held on 17 February 2010.

Referrals were made to Council departments and to external authorities as required.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Planning Permit Application D889/2009 be approved and a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit be issued subject to the following conditions:

1. Before the development starts, amended plans to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to, and approved by, the Responsible Authority. The plans must be drawn to scale with dimensions and must be generally in accordance with the plans submitted with the application (identified as Project, Mixed Use Development 850 Plenty Road, Bundoora, Drawn DG, date 04.12.09, Job no. 09474, Drawing Nos. TP-00 to TP-19 drawn by architecture hq) but modified to show:
 - a) A minimum of 30 of the dwellings must be identified and utilised as social housing.
 - b) Location and height of a single communal antenna for each of the apartment buildings.
 - c) Privacy screens provided to the balconies of dwellings within the apartment buildings. Balconies must be treated to prevent overlooking of more than

50% of the secluded private open space of a lower-level dwelling directly below. These screens are to be permanently fixed and durable external screens, no more than 25 percent transparent or be designed to restrict views to a maximum of 25 percent through the screen. A sectional plan of these screens must be provided to show how these screens will restrict views onto adjoining balconies and other balconies within the development. These screens must restrict downward views into balconies below and sideways views into adjoining balconies.

- d) All bicycle parking spaces and facilities compliant with Clause 52.34 of the planning scheme.
- e) All external materials and finishes. The presentation of this information must include colour and sample boards and coloured elevations. Particular attention should be paid to colours and finishes. Materials that are durable, long lasting and low maintenance must be used.
- f) All glazing in windows of the residential towers in the elevations noted as having low reflectivity levels.
- g) Storage areas of a minimum of six (6) cubic metres must be provided for all dwellings.
- h) All plant on the roof of the development required to be screened and appropriately sited to not be visible from the public realm.
- i) Front fencing with a maximum height of one (1) metre and be permeable to allow views through into the front garden area.
- j) Location of mail boxes for the apartment buildings.
- k) Details of any partitioning to allow appropriate daylight to reach bedrooms that do not have external windows.
- l) Either additional planting or shading devices to the main at grade car park to Plenty Road.
- m) The car park designed with Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUS – swales or similar) that enable the water runoff from the car park to water the trees and shrubs in that area.
- n) Tanks in conjunction with WSUD to allow for the establishment and maintenance of the plants.
- o) The access to Oulton Crescent to be constructed and formed to match existing levels to Council requirements.
- p) The statutory cycle parking requirement for the site. (Any cycle parking provided as part of the Travel Plans must be provided in addition to the statutory requirement).
- q) How the freight needs of residents will be addressed.
- r) A high quality pedestrian link between Plenty Road and the Centre. This should be based on Australian Standards and provide a high level of pedestrian priority across the car park.
- s) How pedestrians will be accommodated around the signalised intersections at Plenty Road and Loddon Avenue.
- t) Bicycle access provided through the proposed residential and residential visitor car parking area.
- u) Resident and resident visitor cycle parking located to facilitate convenient bicycle access via Oulton Crescent.

- v) Plans, elevations and cross sections showing:
 - Pedestrian facilities.
 - Cycle facilities.
 - Car parking spaces (1:100 scale).
 - Vehicle accessways.
 - Ramps.
 - Headroom (1:25 scale).
- w) How parking in the parking area accessed via Oulton Avenue will be limited to residential and residential visitor parking and that access and parking arrangements will not negatively impact the residential amenity of properties to the south of the shopping centre.
- x) Establish a clear vertical glazed break through the entire northern residential block in the form of a fully glazed lobby space presenting to both north and south.
- y) Delete the top three (3) floors of the eastern end of the residential block on Gremel Road. The top floor of this section should be retained, as a 9th floor, to form a distinguishable roof form.
- z) Simplify the presentation of the central element within the northern elevation of the residential form to Gremel Road elevation to provide distinction in the wider elevation:
 - aa) Delete the top two (2) levels of the Oulton Crescent block and reorganise access to ensure an entry presentation to the south.
 - bb) Redesign of the office form to Plenty Road to increase depth and ensure activity on all sides and a connection to the rear with the shopping centre.
 - cc) Ensure that there is an active frontage of the building to the car park with retail tenancies opening out onto this space.
 - dd) Details of the public spaces within the development to ensure that the pedestrian routes are simple, direct and are clearly defined. This includes the pedestrian linkages across and around the site, particularly to the Summerhill Residential Park in the south and the La Trobe Retirement Village.
 - ee) Details of the pedestrian spaces and pathways within the development which are accessible provide for safety, and seating in strategic locations. Weather protection is to be incorporated.
 - ff) Details of the pedestrian link along the southern property boundary connecting Oulton Crescent with the commercial car parking area. A section of the link must be provided. The link must incorporate safety and security measures.
 - gg) Appropriate lighting provided within the public areas.
 - hh) External materials to be used that minimise the potential for graffiti.
 - ii) Lighting to the basement car parking and car accessways and all public areas.
 - jj) Details of security measures provided to the car parking areas.
 - kk) The area of each balcony is required to be at least 8m² with a minimum dimension of 1.6 metres.

- ll) The secluded private open space of the existing dwellings located along the western property boundary of the adjoining residential land to the east of the subject site (at the Summerhill Residential Park located at 2 Gremel Road, Reservoir) must comply with standard B21 of Clause 55 of the Darebin Planning Scheme.
- mm) The loading bay facilities in accordance with the planning scheme requirements under Clause 52.07 of the Scheme.
- nn) Floor plans that correspond with the elevation plans.
- oo) Floor plans for the Medical Centre, Child Care Centre, Restricted Recreation Facility (Gym) and Office.
- pp) Dimensions of carparking spaces and access ways in accordance with the Darebin Planning Scheme.
- qq) Modifications in accordance with the Environmentally Sustainable Development Management Plan (refer to Condition No. 8 of this Permit).
- rr) Any modifications in accordance with Yarra Valley Water, Jemena, VicRoads and the Department of Transport (refer to Conditions No. 48-59 of this Permit).
- ss) A Landscape Plan in accordance with Condition No.9 of this Permit.

When approved, the plans will be endorsed and form part of this Permit.

2. Before the development and/or use starts, the owner of the land at 850 Plenty Road, Reservoir must provide a written undertaking to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority to the effect that, without the written consent of the Responsible Authority:
 - a) A minimum of 30 of the residential dwellings on the land must be designated and used for social housing.
3. The development as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
4. The layout of the uses as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
5. This Permit will expire if:
 - a) The development does not start within three (3) years from the date of this Permit; or
 - b) The development is not completed and the use has not started within five (5) years of the date of this Permit.

The Responsible Authority may extend the times referred to if a request is made in writing before this Permit expires or within three (3) months after the expiry date.

6. Before buildings and works or the use of 850 Plenty Road, Reservoir starts, a site assessment of 850 Plenty Road, Reservoir, prepared by a member of the Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association (Victoria) Inc. or other suitably qualified environmental professional, must be submitted to the Responsible Authority to its satisfaction. The site assessment must include:
- The nature of the previous land use or activities on the site;
 - An opinion on the level and nature of contamination (if any), how much is present and how it is distributed;
 - Details of any clean up, construction, ongoing maintenance, monitoring or other measures in order to effectively manage contaminated soil (if any) that is present within the site (management measures); and
 - Recommendation on whether the environmental condition of the land is suitable for the proposed use and whether an environmental audit of the land should be undertaken.

Should the consultant's opinion be that an environmental audit be undertaken, before buildings and works start, either:

- A certificate of environmental audit must be issued for the land in accordance with Part IXD of the Environment Protection Act 1970, or
- An environmental auditor appointed under the Environment Protection Act 1970 must make a statement in accordance with Part IXD of that Act that the environmental conditions of the land are suitable for the sensitive use.

In the event that the management measures are required or a statement is issued in accordance with Part IXD of the Environment Protection Act, before the use is occupied all management measures of the site assessment or conditions of the Statement of Environmental Audit must be complied with to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Written confirmation of compliance with the management measures of the site assessment or the conditions of the Statement of Environmental Audit must be provided by a suitably qualified environmental professional.

If the management measures of the site assessment or the conditions of the Statement of Environmental Audit require ongoing maintenance or monitoring, before the use is occupied the owner of the land must enter into an Agreement with the Responsible Authority under Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. This agreement must be to the effect that except with the written consent of the Responsible Authority all management measures of the site assessment or conditions of the Statement of Environmental Audit issued in respect of the land will be complied with to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. Written confirmation of compliance with the management measures of the site assessment or the conditions of the Statement of Environmental Audit must be provided by a suitably qualified environmental professional.

A memorandum of the Agreement must be entered on the Title to the land and the owner must pay the costs of the preparation and execution of the Agreement and entry of the memorandum on Title.

7. Prior to the issue of a building permit for any building or any works authorised by this permit, a development levy must be paid to Darebin City Council. The amount of the development levy for each charge unit must be calculated in accordance with Schedule 1 to the Development Contribution Plan Overlay.
8. Before the development starts, an Environmentally Sustainable Development Management Plan (ESD Management Plan) prepared by a suitably qualified professional, must be submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Responsible Authority.
 - a) The ESD Management Plan must address:
 - Energy Management;
 - Stormwater Management;
 - Water Conservation and Re-use; and
 - Demolition and Construction Waste Management.
 - b) The ESD Management Plan must provide:
 - Details of how the development achieves the Four (4) Star Green Star rating for both the commercial and the residential.
 - Demonstrate at least a 20-25% improvement on the Building Code of Australia (BCA) Part J requirements.
 - Demonstrate how Best Practice Stormwater quality objectives will be achieved.
 - c) Where appropriate, the ESD Management Plan should:
 - Identify relevant statutory obligations, strategic or other documented sustainability targets or performance standards;
 - Document the means by which the appropriate target or performance will be achieved;
 - Identify responsibilities and a schedule for implementation, and ongoing management, maintenance and monitoring; and
 - Demonstrate that the design elements, technologies and operational practices that comprise the ESD Management Plan can be maintained over time.

A schedule for implementing and monitoring the ESD Management Plan must be included.

The approved ESD Management Plan must be implemented to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
9. Before buildings and works start, a detailed Landscape Plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority must be submitted to, and approved by the Responsible Authority. When the Landscape Plan is approved, it will be endorsed and will then form part of this Permit. The Landscape Plan must be prepared by a suitably qualified person and must incorporate:
 - a) Details of all existing trees to be retained and all existing trees to be removed, including overhanging trees on adjoining properties. The genus, species, height and spread of all trees must be specified
 - b) A planting schedule of proposed vegetation detailing the botanical name, common name, size at maturity and quantities of all plants

- c) Details of all surfaces including lawns, mulched garden beds and hard paving (such as asphalt, concrete, brick or gravel)
- d) Street trees within the nature strip/s adjacent to the property
- e) All constructed items including retaining walls, letter boxes, garbage bin receptacles, outdoor furniture, lighting, clotheslines etc
- f) Edge treatment between grass (lawn) and garden beds
- g) An outline of the approved building/s including any basement, the location of entry doors, windows, gates and fences. An outline of buildings on adjoining land, including the location of windows and doors which face the subject site must also be shown
- h) The location of both existing and proposed overhead and underground services. Conflicts of such services with the existing and proposed planting must be avoided
- i) Clear graphics identifying trees (deciduous and evergreen), shrubs, groundcovers and climbers
- j) A scale, North Point and appropriate legend.

The species of all proposed plants selected must be to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

10. The landscaping as shown on the endorsed Landscape Plan must be completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority before the development is occupied and/or the use starts or at such later date as is approved by the Responsible Authority in writing.

No later than seven (7) days after the completion of the landscaping, the permit holder must advise Council, in writing, that the landscaping has been completed.

11. The landscaping as shown on the endorsed Landscape Plan must be maintained, and any dead, diseased or damaged plant replaced in accordance with the endorsed Landscape Plan to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

12. Before development starts, an Acoustic Assessment of the development, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, must be submitted to the Responsible Authority. The assessment must be prepared by a suitably qualified acoustic engineer and must detail recommended treatments of the development and/or the adoption of appropriate measures to ensure that:

- (a) Noise emissions associated with the operation of surrounding and nearby non-residential uses and traffic do not impact adversely on the amenity of the dwellings and on the amenity of the communal open space area.
- (b) The design of habitable rooms of all dwellings adjacent to a road limits internal noise levels to a maximum of 45 dB(a) in accordance with relevant Australian Standards for acoustic control (including AS3671-Road Traffic).
- (c) Noise emissions from the development (including the operation of plant, transmission of noise between dwellings and the use of the car park) do not impact adversely on the amenity of dwellings within the development and neighbouring residential properties.
- (d) Details of an acoustic common boundary fence (located along the eastern boundary of the site) to ensure that the dwellings on the adjoining site to the

east at 2 Gremel Road, Reservoir are protected from noise associated with the operation of the development and the associated loading bays and facilities to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

The development must be constructed in accordance with the requirements/recommendations of the approved Acoustic Assessment to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

13. Before the development starts, a waste management plan, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority, demonstrating the operation of the garbage and recyclables storage area must be submitted to the Responsible Authority.

The plan/documentation must demonstrate the means by which garbage and recyclables will be stored on the site and must clearly detail: what waste services will be provided (i.e. cardboard paper plastic and metals recycling or comingled waste, general waste and even organic waste), types of bins, types of collection vehicles, frequency of collection, times of collection, location of collection point for vehicles and any other relevant matter. The plan must require that collection be undertaken by a private contractor.

Waste storage and collection must undertaken in accordance with the approved management plan and must be conducted in such a manner as not to affect the amenity of the surrounding area and which does not cause any interference with the circulation and parking of vehicles on abutting streets.

14. Prior to occupation of the development, the permit holder shall arrange for the removal of waste and recycled product from the development by a private contractor to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. A copy of the collection arrangements must be provided to the Responsible Authority prior to the occupation of the development.
15. The waste storage/collection area must not be used for any other purpose and must be maintained in a clean and tidy condition, and free from offensive odour, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
16. Before the development starts the applicant must develop and deliver a number of comprehensive Travel Plans for the site for each of the land uses included in the proposal. These Travel Plans must support the requested level of parking reduction for the site to be approved by the Responsible Authority. The Travel Plans must articulate how the developer intends to promote sustainable travel behaviour by individuals travelling to and from the site.
17. Before the development starts the applicant must submit a new version of the 'Transport Impact Assessment' as the 'Office' area shown in plans No. TP08 and TP09 was not included.
18. Before the development starts an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) must be submitted to and approved by the Responsible Authority. All buildings and works must be carried out in accordance with the approved EMP.
19. The owner must ensure that the materials and finishes as approved under this permit are incorporated into the construction of the building to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

20. As part of the consultant team an experienced architect must be engaged to oversee the design intent and construction quality to ensure that the design and quality and the appearance of the approved building is maintained.
21. Floor levels shown on the endorsed plans must be confirmed. The confirmation of the ground floor level must take place no later than at the time of the inspection of the subfloor of the development required under the Building Act 1993 and the Building Regulations 2006. This confirmation must be in the form of a report from a licensed land surveyor and must be submitted to the Responsible Authority no later than 7 days from the date of the sub-floor inspection. The upper floor levels must be confirmed before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued, by a report from a licensed land surveyor submitted to the Responsible Authority.
22. All dwellings that share dividing walls and/or floors must be constructed to limit noise transmission in accordance with Part F(5) of the Building Code of Australia.
23. Before the development is occupied, an automatic external lighting system capable of illuminating the entry to each unit (both commercial and residential), access to car parking areas, car spaces and all pedestrian walkways and communal areas must be provided on the land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

The external lighting must be designed, baffled and/or located to ensure that no loss of amenity is caused to adjoining and nearby land, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

24. The number of practitioners operating from the Medical Centre at any one time must not exceed four (4).
25. The number of children on the premises at the Child Care Centre must not exceed 80 at any one time.
26. The permit holder must ensure that all medical waste is disposed of by an authorised collection/disposal agency to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
27. Drugs of addiction must not be kept on the premises and signs to that effect must be displayed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
28. The amenity of the area must not be adversely affected by the use or development as a result of the:
 - (a) Transport of materials, goods or commodities to or from the land; and/or
 - (b) Appearance of any building, works, stored goods or materials; and/or
 - (c) Emission of noise, artificial light, vibration, smell, fumes, smoke, vapour, steam, soot, ash, dust, waste water, waste products, grit or oil; and/orand/or in any other way, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
29. Noise from the premises must not exceed the relevant limits prescribed by the State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Noise from Commerce, Industry and Trade) No. N-1.
30. Noise from the premises must not exceed the relevant limits prescribed under State Environment Protection Policy (Control of Music Noise from Public Premises) N-2.

31. No external sound amplification equipment or loudspeakers are to be used on the land.
32. Before the occupation of the development, an acoustic fence must be erected along the eastern boundary of the land in accordance with the design prepared in consultation with an acoustic engineer qualified to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
33. No intermittent or flashing light may be installed on the land without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
34. Before the development is occupied an automatic system of external lighting must be installed on the land to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. The lighting system must operate automatically between dusk and dawn and must be designed, baffled and/or located to ensure that no loss of amenity is caused to adjoining and nearby land, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
35. Before the use starts, the exhausts on the premises must be provided with a filter system to ensure that the emission of cooking odours, fumes and smoke does not cause detriment to the amenity of the locality to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
36. External lighting of the areas set aside for car parking, access lanes and driveways must be designed, baffled and located to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
37. The loading and unloading of goods from vehicles must only be carried out on the subject land within the designated loading bay, as detailed on the endorsed plans, and must be conducted in a manner which does not cause any interference with the circulation and parking of vehicles on the land or on abutting streets.
38. The land must be drained to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
39. With the exception of guttering, rainheads and downpipes, all pipes, fixtures, fittings and vents servicing any building on the land must be concealed in service ducts or otherwise hidden from view to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
40. No plant, equipment, services or architectural features other than those shown on the endorsed plans are permitted above the roof level of the building/s without the prior written consent of the Responsible Authority.
41. Provision must be made on the land for letter boxes and receptacles for newspapers to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
42. All bins and receptacles used for the storage and collection of garbage, bottles and other solid wastes must be kept in a storage area screened from view, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
43. All bins and receptacles must be maintained in a clean and tidy condition and free from offensive odour, to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
44. Before occupation of the development, areas set aside for the parking of vehicles and access lanes as shown on the endorsed plan(s) must be:

- a) Constructed;
- b) Properly formed to such levels that they can be used in accordance with the plans;
- c) Surfaced with an all weather sealcoat; and
- d) Drained

to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.

Car spaces, access lanes and driveways shown on the endorsed plans must not be used for any other purpose.

45. Before the development is occupied, vehicular crossing(s) must be constructed to align with approved driveways to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. All redundant crossing(s) or crossing opening(s) must be removed and replaced with footpath, naturestrip and kerb and channel to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
46. All security alarms or similar devices installed on the land must be of a silent type approved by the Standards Association of Australia and be connected to a registered security service.
47. Disabled access to the building must be provided to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority. All work carried out to provide disabled access must be constructed in accordance with Australian Standards Design for Access and Mobility:-AS1428.1-1998, AS1428-2 1992, AS1428-3 1992 and AS1428-4 199.

Conditions Required by Yarra Valley Water (conditions no. 48-49)

48. The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with Yarra Valley Water for the provision of water supply.
49. The owner of the land must enter into an agreement with Yarra Valley Water for the provision of Sewerage.

Conditions Required by the Department of Transport (conditions no. 50-51)

50. The existing bus stops and associated infrastructure along Plenty Road must not be altered without the prior consent of the Director of Public Transport. Any alterations including temporary works must be to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Transport at the cost of the permit holder.
51. The permit holder must take all reasonable steps to ensure that disruption to bus operations along Plenty Road is kept to a minimum during construction. Foreseen disruptions to bus operations must be communicated with mitigation measures to the Director of Public Transport and bus operators one (1) week prior.

Condition Required by Jemena (condition no. 52)

52. The applicant must:
- Enter into an agreement with Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd and fulfil agreement obligations, for supply of electricity to each lot shown on the endorsed plan.
 - Enter into an agreement with Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd and fulfil agreement obligations, for the rearrangement of the existing electricity supply system.
 - Ensure that any private electric line in the subdivision is rearranged to the satisfaction of Jemena Electricity Networks (Vic) Ltd.
 - Provide easements satisfactory to Jemena Electricity Networks, (Vic) Ltd for the purpose of "Power Line" in favour of 'Jemena Electricity Networks, (Vic) Ltd', where easements have not been otherwise provided, for all existing electric power lines and for any new power lines required to service the lots on the endorsed plan and/or abutting land.
 - Obtain for the use of Jemena Electricity Networks, (Vic) Ltd any other easement required to service the lots.
 - Adjust the position of any existing Jemena Electricity Networks, (Vic) Ltd easement to accord with the position of the electric line(s) as determined by survey.
 - Set aside on the plan of subdivision reserves or easements, satisfactory to Jemena Electricity Networks, (Vic) Ltd for electric substations.

Conditions Required by VicRoads (conditions nos. 53-59)

53. Prior to the commencement of use of the development, the Applicant is required to undertake traffic signal remodelling works at the intersection of Plenty Road and site entry No. 1, incorporating an extension of the u-turn lane on the northern approach to the intersection, and any other alterations as identified as part of the functional approval process. The Applicant is required to fund all works associated with the traffic signals remodel.
54. Functional layout plans shall be submitted to and approved by VicRoads prior to any works being performed in the Plenty Road road reserve, including:
- a) Traffic signal remodelling works at the intersection of Plenty Road and site entry No. 1. Detailed SIDRA analysis must also be submitted, that demonstrates the required improved works, and no impact to tram movements, to the satisfaction of VicRoads.
 - b) Proposed left-in/left-out access at site entry No. 2.
55. An amended plan shall be submitted for endorsement detailing:
- a) Proposed access widths and gradients, in accordance with AS/NZS 2890.1;2004 Off-street car parking, to the satisfaction of VicRoads and the Responsible Authority.

- b) Improved pedestrian pathways and facilities within the site to provide for safe and efficient pedestrian access to and from Plenty Road paths and public transport facilities, and which removes potential conflict associated with carparking and vehicle access movements.
56. To the satisfaction of VicRoads and Responsible Authority, an Integrated Transport plan shall be submitted including but not limited to:
- a) Need and opportunity for improved bus routes to serve the local catchment, in consultation with the Department of Transport.
 - b) Identification of main cycle routes from the expected catchment around the site, and connections to the Principal Bicycle Network and trail network, as well as any works required to the surrounding cycle routes to facilitate access to the centre.
 - c) Safe and efficient pedestrian access.
57. All proposed road works and mitigating works shall be carried out, at no cost to VicRoads and to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority.
58. Work site traffic management to be in accordance with “Road Management Act 2004 Worksite Safety Traffic Management – Code of Practice” and AS 1742.3-2009 Part 3 traffic control devices for works on roads. If traffic congestion becomes excessive at anytime, the contractor must undertake measures to ease congestion.
59. A traffic management plan is to be submitted to VicRoads for its consideration at least 14 days prior to the commencement of works on-site. No traffic management devices are to be erected on Plenty Road until VicRoads issues authorisation for the erection of those devices in accordance with the traffic management plan.

NOTATIONS

(These notes are provided for information only and do not constitute part of this permit or conditions of this permit)

- N1 Any failure to comply with the conditions of this permit may result in action being taken to have an Enforcement Order made against some or all persons having an interest in the land and may result in legal action or the cancellation of this permit by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.
- N2 Nothing in the grant of this permit should be construed as granting any permission other than planning permission for the purpose described. It is the duty of the permit holder to acquaint themselves, and comply, with all other relevant legal obligations (including any obligation in relation to restrictive covenants and easements affecting the site) and to obtain other required permits, consents or approvals.
- N3 The amendments specified in Condition 1 of this Permit and any additional modifications which are “necessary or consequential” are those that will be assessed by Council when plans are lodged to satisfy that condition. Any “necessary or consequential” amendments, in addition to those required by this condition, should be specifically brought to the attention of Council for assessment.

If any other modifications are proposed, application must also be made for their approval under the relevant sections of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

They can only be approved once the required and consequential changes have been approved and the plans endorsed. It is possible to approve such modifications without notice to other parties, but they must be of limited scope. Modifications of a more significant nature may require a new permit application.

- N4 This Planning Permit represents the Planning approval for the use and/or development of the land. This Planning Permit does not represent the approval of other departments of Darebin City Council or other statutory authorities. Such approvals may be required and may be assessed on different criteria to that adopted for the approval of this Planning Permit.
- N5 Please note the Development Contribution Plan levy will be invoiced separately.
- N6 To complete a satisfactory Sustainable Design Assessment (SDA) the Responsible Authority recommends the use of Sustainable Tools for Environmental Performance Strategy (STEPS) and/or Sustainable Design Scorecard (SDS) to assess the developments environmental performance against appropriate standards.

Before the use starts all relevant Health Department registrations, approvals or related licences must be obtained.

Vic Roads Notation

Please note that the approval covered under VicRoads consent covers only the works associated with the planning permit application and does not imply the right to:

- a) Connect to utilities, drainage, etc. within the road reserve, relocate services from the property into the road reserve, extend or alter existing utility arrangement within the road reserve.
- b) Carry out works within the road reserve which may impact roadside vegetation including vegetation removal, and works within the dripline of trees, (eg. Excavation, stockpiling of materials, etc.)

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT consideration of the matter be deferred until the Council meeting scheduled for 17 May 2010.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Planning Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2010 resolved that consideration of Application for Planning Permit D899/2009 be deferred to a future meeting of Planning Committee to enable Officers to discuss the following with the Applicant:

- More specific details relating to the social housing mix for the development.
- Detail of the development particularly relating to bulk and a visualisation of changes to plans as a result of conditions imposed.
- Detail relating to the environmental design standards of the development.
- Provision of a Site Assessment Report.
- Provision of the Applicant's traffic consultant report and further information from Council's Transport Management and Planning Branch justifying the proposed large reduction in car parking provision for the development.
- Consideration being given by the Applicant to providing open space between the development and abutting Retirement Village.
- Consideration being given by the Applicant to providing stormwater from the development to benefit Barling Reserve and/or surrounds.
- Access for the disabled.

The Planning Committee at its meeting on 22 March 2010 resolved that consideration of Application for Planning Permit D899/2009 be referred to Council for consideration and decision.

A report assessing the Application which is an update of the report submitted to the Planning Committee on 9 March 2010 is attached as **Appendix A**.

CORE ISSUES

More specific details relating to the social housing mix for the development.

The Applicant has advised that they have agreed to provide 30 dwellings for social housing within the development. In addition to these 30 dwellings, a further six (6) dwellings are dedicated and designed specifically to be accessible dwellings, suitable for people with disabilities.

In addition the Applicant has advised that their intention to provide housing within the development that is price pointed to be affordable to the general public.

The requirement for provision of social housing has been included in conditions no. 1(a) and 2.

Detail of the development particularly relating to bulk and a visualisation of changes to plans as a result of conditions imposed.

The recommended conditions of any approval require the proposal be modified to show:

1. The top three (3) floors of the eastern end of the residential block on Gremel Road deleted.

2. The presentation of the central element within the northern elevation of the residential form to Gremel Road elevation provides distinction in the wider elevation.
3. A clear vertical glazed break through the entire northern residential block in the form of a fully glazed lobby space presenting to both north and south.
4. Deletion of the top three (3) levels of the residential apartment building that faces Oulton Crescent.

In response to these conditions the Applicant has submitted a perspective to show these required alterations to the eastern end of the northern elevation of the apartment building facing Gremel Road. Discussions held with Council's Urban Design Consultant have concluded that whilst the elevation including a black central block does not provide the glazed effect desired it does sufficiently break the building into three (3) parts.

In addition to these changes the Applicant has agreed to delete the top two (2) floors of the residential apartment building that faces Oulton Crescent in the south west portion of the land.

Detail relating to the environmental design standards of the development.

The Applicant has provided additional information relating to Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) response. The document identifies the Applicant's desire to achieve a four (4) Star Green Star Rating. Four (4) Star Green Star rating is a tool that targets the top 25% of all building performance measures. The Four (4) Star Green Star rating system is a more rigorous assessment technique and provides for a better Environmentally Sustainable Design outcome. The five (5) Star Rating system targets minimum performance standards and provides for a lower standard of building than Four (4) Star Green Star.

A condition of any approval would require that the building achieve a four (4) Star Green Star Rating. This will ensure that the development would meet best practice ESD objectives. This requirement is included in conditions no. 1(qq) and 8.

Provision of a Site Assessment Report.

The Applicant has provided Council with a report on land contamination assessment prepared by GHD with respect to the environmental conditions of the site. The conclusions of the report were that the site is fit for the proposed use and there is no methane gas present on the site.

Council had included condition no. 6 relating to a further current assessment/investigation of the site conditions. The Applicant has confirmed that they have appointed John Throssell of Parsons Brinkerhoff to conduct the review. Mr Throssell is an accredited environmental auditor.

In respect to ground conditions, the Building Code of Australia (BCA) sets out performance criteria with respect to structural design of a building. The structural design takes into account ground conditions which are determined through extensive testing. Prior to the issue of a building permit, the Building Surveyor requires an independent peer review of the structural drawings and calculation. These designs will be fully informed from testing conducted on site with respect to ground conditions. It is the Applicant's view that no further tougher conditions that Council could place on the development with respect to the structure that are not already embedded in the BCA itself.

Provision of the Applicant's traffic consultant report and further information from Council's Transport Management and Planning Branch justifying the proposed large reduction in car parking provision for the development.

An updated Traffic Consultant Report was provided to Council by the Applicant which included the car parking requirements for the office (attached as **Appendix B**). The report concluded that the office component of the development will have a negligible impact on the operation of the network.

Council's Transport Management and Planning Branch have provided further advice on why the Branch is supportive of a waiver of the statutory car parking requirement for the proposed redevelopment of 850 Plenty Road, Reservoir.

The Branch's comments are as follows:

Before a requirement for car spaces is reduced or waived, the applicant must satisfy the Responsible Authority that the reduced provision is justified due to:

- **The availability of car parking in the locality.** - Although we would not consider the availability of parking at the adjacent "Safeway" or "Aldi" sites in isolation, there is little doubt that some visitors to the applicant's site will park in the adjacent shopping centres in order to access the shops on multiple sites (see dot point 3 - consolidation of shared car spaces). In pre-application discussions, the applicant agreed to pursue discussions with adjacent property owners in order to deliver improved pedestrian connectivity between the adjacent shopping centres. We await a comprehensive Travel Plan for the site and revised drawings showing how this will be achieved.
- **The availability of public transport in the locality.** - This site is well serviced by both tram route 86 and bus routes 556, 563, 566, and 567. We hope that the applicant's Travel Plan will detail ways in which the applicant intends to promote the use of public transport to, from, and for the site.
- **Any reduction in car parking demand due to the sharing of car spaces by multiple uses, either because of variation of car parking demand over time or because of efficiencies gained from the consolidation of shared car parking spaces.** - Demand for parking for different land uses within the site will vary over time. For example, demand for residential visitor parking (evenings and weekends) is unlikely to coincide with demand for office parking (9am-5pm weekdays). Consolidating shared car parking spaces for various land uses also means that fewer additional spaces need to be provided to facilitate the turnover of parking.
- **Local amenity including pedestrian amenity.** - In addition to pedestrian amenity improvements between the adjacent shopping centre sites, the Transport Management and Planning Branch has requested additional consideration of improved pedestrian facilities between the site frontage and the entrances to the shopping centre. This will encourage local patrons to walk to the shopping centre and use the public transport in the vicinity of the site instead of driving to the shopping centre.
- **An empirical assessment of car parking demand.** - The Transport Management and Planning Branch considers the comprehensive empirical assessment of car parking demand supplied by the applicant to be an accurate reflection of probable car parking demand for the proposed development.
- **Any other relevant consideration.** - The Transport Management and Planning Branch has requested a comprehensive Travel Plan for the applicant's proposals, which will help to address any shortfall in the statutory parking requirement by encouraging residents, employees, and patrons to use alternative modes of transport: walking, cycling, and public transport to travel to and from 850 Plenty Road, Reservoir. We are yet to have received/commented on a Travel Plan for this site.

It is the Transport Management and Planning Branch's belief that, according to Clause 52.06 of the planning scheme and the decision guidelines outlined above, the applicant has met the level of car parking required to meet parking demand for this development.

Consideration being given by the Applicant to providing open space between the development and abutting Retirement Village.

The Applicant has advised that there is already a landscape buffer between the proposed buildings and the adjoining site. In addition the Applicant has advised that the use of this area is not changing from what is currently conducted.

Consideration being given by the Applicant to providing stormwater from the development to benefit Barling Reserve and/or surrounds.

The Applicant has advised that it is their desire to achieve an ecologically sustainable development. Rain water harvesting is an important component of any ESD design. Should there be any excess capacity in the rain water catchment after providing potable water to the toilets and gardens of the development, then they would be happy to coordinate with Council on how this excess water may best be used.

Access for the disabled.

The Applicant has advised that they have included six (6) dwellings designed specifically to cater for disabled persons. They say that this reflects their commitment to ensure that they take every measure to ensure that the building and surrounds are Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant.

In addition the Applicant says that they are conscious of the residents of the retirement village's safety and wish to ensure that any pedestrian route to the centre has significant passive surveillance. They advise that this cannot be achieved by providing another alternative route through the loading dock or car park areas. Their view is that the safest and direct route will be via the pedestrian footpath.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FUTURE ACTIONS

Nil

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appendix A – Report assessing Planning Permit Application D889/2009.

Appendix B – GTA consultants report titled “The Hub, 850 Plenty Road, Reservoir, Transport impact Assessment”.

7.3 FOOTPATH ACTIVITIES POLICY REVIEW

MINUTE NO. 113

AUTHOR: Activity Centre Coordinator - Leanne Deans**MANAGER:** Director Development and Amenity - Michael Ballock**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

Darebin City Council has reviewed the Footpath Activities Policy and prepared a new policy. At its meeting on 16 November 2009, Council resolved to release the draft policy for public comment and that the results of the consultation and the policy be presented to Council in March 2010 for consideration and adoption.

Consideration of the report submitted to the previous meeting on 15 March 2010 was deferred for further discussion.

This report includes the results of the consultation and recommends that the policy be adopted by Council.

CONSULTATION:

Darebin Council:

- Economic Development
- Local Laws
- Open Space Planning
- Transport Management and Planning
- Community Access, Health and Safety

Stakeholders:

- Reservoir Business Association
- Preston Business Advisory Committee
- Northcote Business Association
- Fairfield Traders Association

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) The *Footpath Activities Policy 2010* attached as **Appendix A** to this report be adopted by Council.
- (2) The Director Development and Amenity be authorised to consider and determine upon applications for dispensation, hardship or matters not covered by the policy.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT the matter be deferred for further discussion and consideration at a subsequent Council meeting.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

The Goods on Footpath Policy (renamed to Footpath Activities Policy) is used to manage the use of public footpaths within the City of Darebin for commercial and not for profit purposes. The Footpath Activities Policy was reviewed as recommended in a report to Council on 19 May 2008. The review is part of a larger body of work that included a *Research and Consultation Paper* (July 2007), and an *Education, Awareness and Enforcement Program* in 2007.

The changes to the Footpath Activities Policy are aligned with the City of Darebin *Council Plan 2009 – 2013* and respond to a range of strategies included the key goals of:

- Community Wellbeing
- Liveability and Regeneration
- Celebration and Participation
- Environmental Sustainability
- Prudence and Prosperity.

The changes are also in line with the *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009 – 2013* and in particular respond to the Key Priority Areas of Building, Infrastructure and Planning and Health, Safety and Wellbeing.

The key underlying drivers of the review include:

Access and Equity: The way Council manages public space such as footpaths and ensuring the freedom of movement and access for all. These principles are founded in the *Disability and Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Safety and Urban Amenity: Safety and appearance of Council's Activity Centres is a significant issue for businesses and the community. Many of Council's strategies recommend high standards of safety and urban amenity and highlight the importance of the design and management of public spaces and streetscapes.

Economic Development: Footpath trading activities can contribute positively to the character and identity of an area improving ambience and street life. This position is well supported by the State Government's *Melbourne 2030* policy and Council's *Retail Activity Centre Strategy 2005*.

Transparency: Ensuring compliance with relevant guidelines and requirements including Australian Standards, VicRoads and *Disability and Discrimination Act 1992* and improving information about the assessment process.

The following objectives guided the new policy:

- Provide a safe, clear and unimpeded path of access for pedestrians of all abilities
- Improve pedestrian accessibility in areas that attract high pedestrian volumes
- Provide for appropriate footpath trading activities that contribute to the vibrancy and economic viability of Activity Centres
- Enhance the urban amenity and identity of Activity Centres
- Ensure high quality design and finish of all footpath trading activities eg. cafe furniture, display cases and racks and signs
- Ensure access is maintained to public infrastructure including street furniture, signs, public transport, service pits and the roadway.

An internal working group comprising representatives of Economic Development, Local Laws, Open Space Planning, Transport Management and Planning and Major Projects and Activity Centres was formed to review the policy.

The main changes proposed by the policy include:

- Adjust the dimensions of the walkway and kerbside sections to favour pedestrians
- Creation of an 'access section' between properties
- Reduction of the height of A-boards and display racks and cases
- Improved management of café screens including provision for the use of canvas café screens and writing of menu's and specials on fixed glass café screens
- Introduce a maximum number of advertising boards and display racks and cases
- Providing that all items be displayed in display racks and cases
- Provide a range of design and operational guidelines including blinds and awnings

Community consultation was conducted over two stages. The first stage sought feedback about the key changes proposed and informed the preparation of the draft policy. Consultation included:

- Correspondence (12 August 2009) to 500 permit holders advising of key proposed changes and including an information brochure and feedback survey
- Customer intercept survey of visitors in the Preston Central, Northcote, Fairfield and Reservoir Activity Centres
- Presentations to Darebin City Council Business Associations and Centre Coordinators.

- An advertisements in the Leader newspaper (18 August 2009)
- Online information via www.darebin.vic.gov.au/footpathpolicy
- Editorial in the Darebin City Council Business Update (September 2009)

Results of this consultation indicated there was sufficient business and community support for the majority of proposed changes, however there were some concerns about the proposed changes to the footpath sections and this largely related to the proposed 1.8 metre width of the walkway, and a significant number of businesses objected to the reduction in height of advertising boards and display racks and cases to 1.15m.

Council officers reviewed the proposed changes in response to the feedback and lifted the height of advertisement boards and display racks and cases to 1.2 metre (an increase of 8.5 cm) which according to Australian Standards (AS 1428.2-1992) is the average eye height of a person in a wheelchair and maintains good natural surveillance of the footpath and roadway for people with disabilities.

The 1.8 metre walkway width proposed for principal, major and neighbourhood activity centres and the entire length of High Street (from Westgarth to Reservoir) was retained on the basis that the primary role of the footpath is to provide safe, clear and unimpeded access for pedestrians of all abilities. It was acknowledged that on narrow footpaths, there is limited opportunity for the commercial use of the footpath and it is considered that access and equity should be prioritising above the allocation of space to commercial activities and that the provision of a 1.8 metre walkway section allows people in wheelchairs to pass each other from opposite directions.

The second stage of consultation involved the release of the draft Footpath Activities Policy for comment and included:

- Correspondence (17 November 2009) to 500 permit holders advising:
 - Council would consider adoption of the draft policy at its meeting in March 2010
 - Where the draft policy could be obtained (including online)
 - How to provide feedback
- Correspondence to Darebin City Council Business Associations and Centre Coordinators including:
 - A copy of the draft Footpath Activities Policy
 - An article for inclusion in Business Newsletters
- Email to entire Darebin City Council organisation linking to the webpage
- An advertisement in the Leader newspaper (8 December 2009)
- Copies of draft Footpath Activities Policy at Council's Customer Service Centres and online at www.darebin.vic.gov.au/footpathpolicy
- Editorial in the Darebin City Council Business Update (December 2009 and January 2010 editions)
- Presentation to Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC) on 1 February 2010

CORE ISSUES

1. Consideration of submissions received

Council officers received three (3) written submissions about the draft Footpath Activities Policy. Additionally some points were also raised at the recent DDAC meeting on 1 February 2010. The key points are summarised below:

Submission One

- *That Council allow as much use of the footpath as possible.*
- *The café culture and ambience of shopping strips depends on this outcome as it adds to the market / cafe style culture and atmosphere.*
- *Our footpaths seem to be much wider than most when I travel around Melbourne, therefore with proper guidelines, I believe the Darebin Council can help accommodate a vibrant shopping experience for all.*

Consideration

- An objective of the policy is to provide for appropriate footpath trading activities that contribute to the vibrancy and economic viability of activity centres. The impact of widening the 'Walkway Section' is off-set by the reduction to the 'Kerbside Section', however in some locations along High Street there will be a reduction to the 'Articles Section'. This is considered appropriate as the primary role of the footpath is to provide safe, clear and unimpeded access for pedestrians of all abilities. It has been acknowledged that on narrow footpaths, there is limited opportunity for the commercial use of the footpath and it is considered that access and equity should be prioritised above the allocation of space to commercial activities.

Submission Two

- *I object strongly.*
- *Council should adhere to existing regulations.*
- *We have just paid over \$400.00 to have an A-board meet current requirements.*
- *The proposed policy should apply to new applications made, not to existing traders.*
- *Council should pay for manufacture of new A-boards to meet new requirements (not businesses)*
- *The two year transition period is meaningless.*

Consideration

- The idea of having two sets of rules – one for new applicants and one for current applicants for the longer term is not feasible as it maintains the current situation which is considered unsafe, unattractive and not consistent with current policy and legislation. If the two (2) year transition period is considered inadequate, the applicant would be encouraged to submit an application on the basis of hardship which is provided for under the proposed policy.

Submission Three

- *Adequacy of the Kerbside Section - Is 60cm enough to open a car door?*
- *Footpaths often blocked by cafe furniture –Should Council place a Local Laws Officer permanently on patrol in the busy business zones to enforce all local laws/rubbish/parking issues, during business hours?*
- *It is hard to get onto the footpath because of a continuous line of items along the kerbside. Will there be frequent access points to the footpath and will they be noticeably marked as such?*

- *Visibility is minimised for car drivers by items placed on the footpath, particularly advertising on glass cafe screens and the reflection of light off the glass – Does this policy consider the safety aspects of these partitions, particularly at intersections?*

Consideration

- The reduction of the Kerbside Section from 75 cm to 60 cm is considered appropriate in order to maximise the area allocated to pedestrian movement. The addition of 'Access Section' on each property boundary will also facilitate improved access to the 'Walkway Section'. Council has less than 500 current permits for footpath activities and many of the on street carparks will not be affected by this reduction.
- The policy does not allocate resources or staffing – this matter will be referred to Council's Local Laws group.
- The creation of 'Access Sections' will apply to each property boundary and will make a significant improvement to facilitating access from the 'Roadway' to the 'Walkway Section'.
- There are a range of guidelines specified by Australian Standards for the placement of articles near an intersection that are included in the policy. All applications for locations on or near an intersection are referred to the Transport Management and Planning group for comment including the placement of cafe screens. The policy also limits the use of materials that reflect and cause any type of interference to motorists.

Darebin Disability Advisory Committee

- *The reduction of the 'Kerbside Section' from 75 cm to 60 cm.*
- *Ensuring that writing on glass café screens achieves sufficient colour contrast*

Consideration

- The reduction of the 'Kerbside Section' from 75 cm to 60 cm is considered appropriate in order to maximise the area allocated to pedestrian movement. The addition of 'Access Sections' on each property boundary will also facilitate improved access to the 'Walkway Section'. Council has less than 500 permits for footpath activities and many of the on street carparks will not be affected by this reduction.
- The policy provides a general guideline that footpath trading activities must contrast with the background to assist people with impaired vision.

2. Applications for dispensation

Council officers have identified the need to establish a mechanism to review submissions about the policy that involve an application for dispensation, hardship or a matter that is not covered by the policy. It is recommended that applications for dispensation, hardship or matters not covered by the policy be referred to the Director Development and Amenity for a decision. Guidelines will be developed to assist the decision making process.

3. Draft Footpath Activities Policy

The Footpath Activities Policy proposed for adoption is attached to this report (see **Appendix A**) and should be read in conjunction with the recommendations made in this report and the information provided below.

The footpath is defined by four sections that govern its use including the Walkway Section, the Kerbside Section, the Articles Section and the Access Section. The setbacks associated with each section form the major changes proposed and are intended to provide for adequate pedestrian access and sightlines, safe driving conditions, and access to infrastructure, public transport, the roadway and

intersections. These setbacks are consistent with guidelines and requirements established by Australian Standards, VicRoads and the Disability Discrimination Act (1992).

Walkway Section

The Walkway Section is the area of the footpath adjacent to the building or property line and should provide a continuous accessible path of travel for people of all abilities. The Walkway Section also includes the area above the footpath to a height of 2.4m. No items should protrude into the walkway section. It is proposed that the walkway section be 1.8m in width and 2.4m in height.

The Walkway Section can be reduced to 1.5m where footpaths are too narrow to accommodate a 1.8m walkway section and are not located in Principal, Major and Neighbourhood Activity Centre as defined by Council's *Retail Activity Centre Strategy* and the entire length of High Street from Westgarth to Reservoir.

Kerbside Section

The Kerbside Section provides a buffer section between the footpath and the roadway. It also allows for access to and from parked vehicles. It is proposed that the Kerbside Section is 0.6m from the kerb back toward the property line. A reduced kerbside section will be considered to no less than 0.45m to achieve a 1.8m Walkway Section, however no reduction can be considered where the location is adjacent to angle carparking where a minimum 0.6m kerbside setback is required.

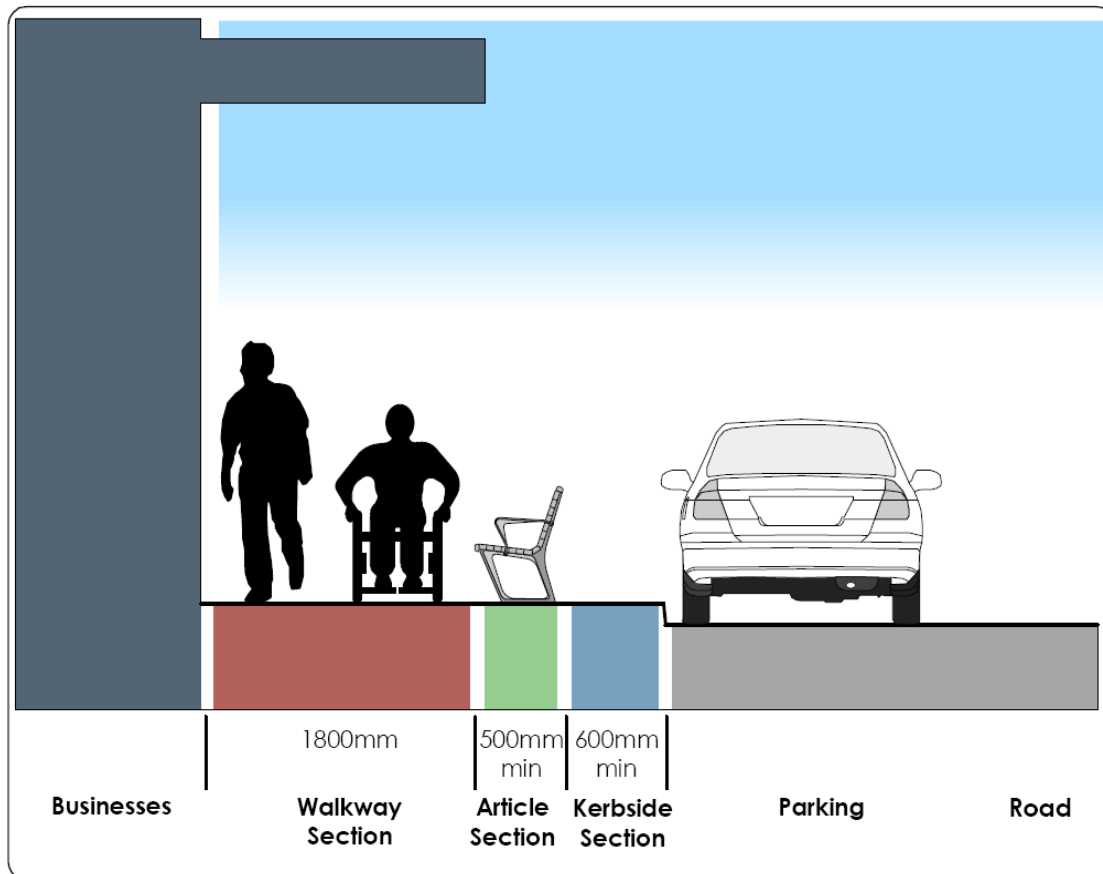
Article Section

The Article Section is the area that exists between the Walkway and the Kerbside Sections that has been allocated for footpath trading activities. The Article Section varies according to the width of the footpath and other conditions that may influence it and may not always be available. There are a number of setbacks specified within the proposed policy that apply to the Article Section.

Access Section

It is proposed that an Access Section be created to enable pedestrian access to and from the roadway to the Walkway Section. It is located adjacent to the boundary line of each adjoining property. The Access Section must be clear of all items. It is proposed that the Access Section is 0.45m from the adjacent property and provide a 0.9m access point. Council officers will determine additional access points in circumstances where a property front exceeds 9.5m and the applicant applies to use the entire front for footpath activities.

Typical Section

Other Sections of the Policy

The other sections of the policy include Operation and Design Guidelines and General Management. The Operation and Design Guidelines section provides specific direction around the quality, design, dimensions and quantity of items that can be placed in the Article Section. The General Management section outlines the Application, Assessment and Compliance Processes and Fees.

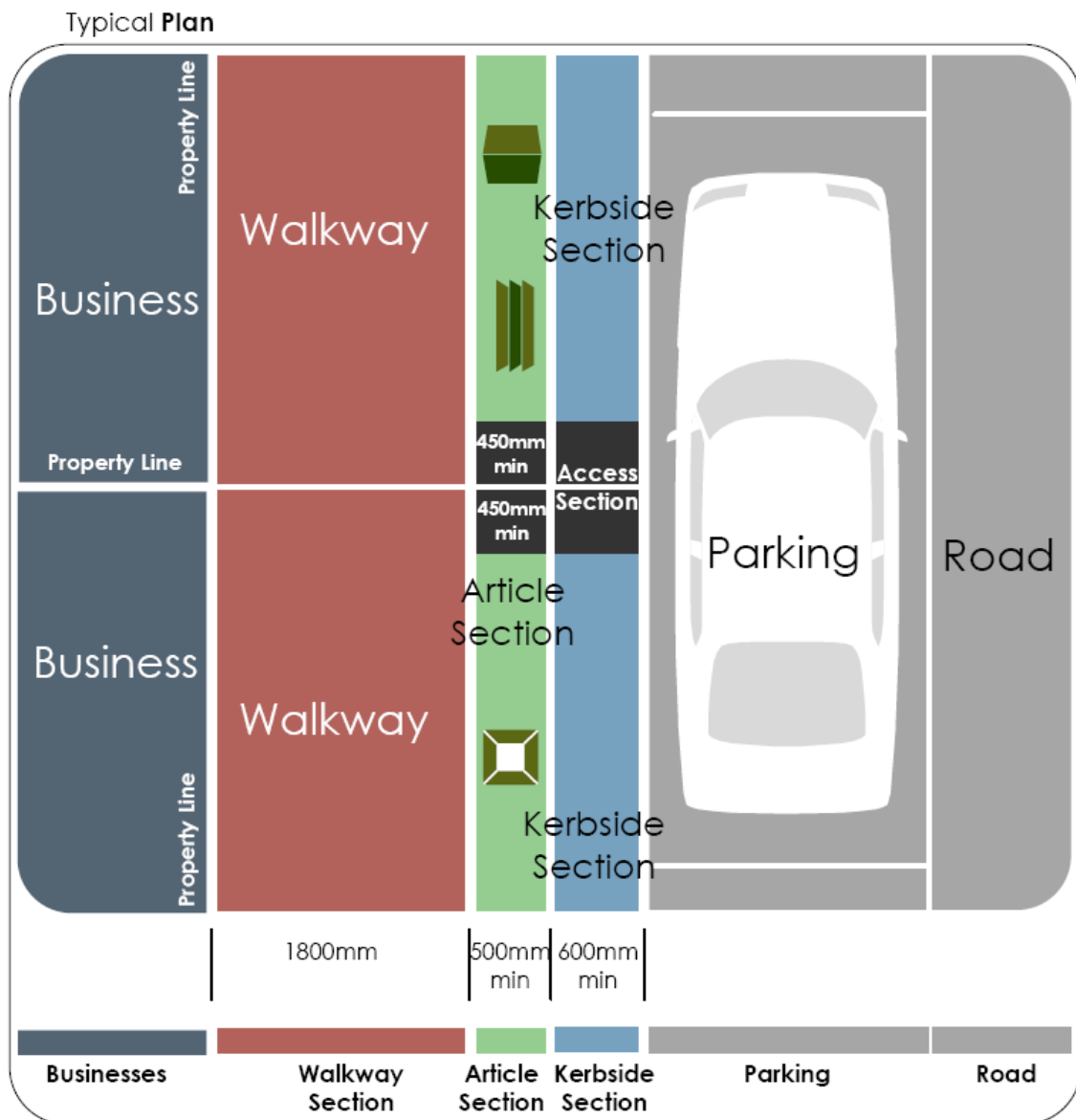
4. Transition Period

A two (2) year transition period was proposed but following further consideration, it is proposed that the transition period be extended for a further year and that it conclude on 30 June 2013.

Provision for a transition period is included within the General Management section. Existing permit holders that are impacted by the policy changes below will not be required to comply with the new policy provisions until 1 July 2013.

- New height requirement for A-Boards and Display Racks and Cases
- Limitations to the number of permitted A-Boards and Display Racks and Cases
- Provision that all goods be displayed in an approved Display Rack and or Case
- Proposed fees for Fixed Café Screens and Planter Boxes.

It is proposed that current permit holders who are eligible for the transition period would be required to comply with relevant provisions under the *Goods on Footpath Policy 2008* and these would be set out in their permit conditions. Any applications for dispensation, hardship or matters not covered by the current policy will be referred to the Director Development and Amenity for a decision.



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Council Strategies (as identified below) highlight the importance of sustainable transport modes including walking, cycling and public transport. The impact of reducing car travel is reduced carbon emissions, improved air quality and reduced traffic congestion. The changes to the Footpath Activities Policy contribute to an improved pedestrian environment and promote increased walking.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Footpath Activities Policy will contribute to the improved management of public footpaths and provide improved freedom of movement and access. These principles are founded in the *Disability and Discrimination Act 1992* and the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

Other

The Footpath Activities Policy aims to improve the safety, accessibility and appearance of the pedestrian environment while also enabling a level of commercial activity. Provision of a safer, accessible and attractive environment encourages increased walking which has a positive impact on community health, social interaction, and environmental sustainability, the liveability of an area, community participation and economic development. These outcomes are recommended by a number of policies and strategies that provide the strategic basis for the Footpath Activities Policy:

City of Darebin Council Plan 2009 – 2013 and the key goals of Community and Wellbeing; Liveability and Regeneration; Celebration and Participation; Environmental Sustainability; and Prudence and Prosperity.

City of Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009 – 2013 and the key priority areas of Building; Infrastructure and Planning; and Health, Safety and Wellbeing.

City of Darebin Retail Activity Centres Strategy (Darebin City Council, 2005) which fosters business development and encourages development of interesting, viable and vibrant activity centres. The *Retail Activity Centres Strategy 2005* recognises the need for appropriate street trading and promotes outdoor dining although also recognises the need for quality urban design and the need to maximize pedestrian convenience and safety.

City of Darebin Community Climate Action Plan 2009 and *Going Places – Darebin Transport Plan 2007 – 2027* support sustainable transport modes. The *Darebin Transport Plan 2007 - 2027* identifies “Walking and Cycling” as one of five key policy with a strong focus on safety and accessibility.

The *International Charter for Walking*, signed by Darebin City Council in 2008 identifies a wide range of principles and suggested actions to encourage and enhance walking provisions including footpaths that are “free from obstruction (and) wide enough for their busiest use”.

City of Darebin Municipal Strategic Statement 2005 includes a range of strategies to achieve a high quality urban environment, particularly promoting safety and access. Strategies include that public spaces and pedestrian routes are attractive, safe, uncluttered and work effectively for all in society, including disabled and elderly people.

Melbourne 2030 (Victorian State Government, 2002) encourages walking, cycling and local public transport use and provides a range of guidelines to improved access and well designed pedestrian environments.

Activity Centre Design Guidelines (Victorian State Government, 2004) provides a range of recommendations around access and movement along footpaths and the need to avoid barriers and obstacles.

Safer Design Guidelines (Victorian State Government, 2005) provides a range of recommendations providing for access, visibility and safety along footpaths and across roads.

In addition to the aforementioned, the Footpath Activities Policy is consistent with requirements and guidelines established by *Austrroads Handbook Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice*, *VicRoads Bus Stop Guidelines*, *Victorian Road Rules (2009)* and relevant Australian Standards.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FUTURE ACTIONS

1. Permit holders to be advised:
 - a) The Footpath Activities Policy has been adopted
 - b) Information about the key changes and how to obtain a full copy of the policy
 - c) That these changes will become effective on 1 July 2010 following expiry of current permits on 30 June 2010
 - d) That a three (3) year transition period will apply for existing permit holders that are impacted by the policy changes below:
 - i. New height requirement for A-boards and display racks and cases
 - ii. Limitations to the number of permitted A-boards and display racks and cases
 - iii. Provision that all goods be displayed in an approved display rack and or case
 - iv. Proposed fees for fixed café screens and planter boxes.
2. All new applications will be required to comply with the policy from the date that it is adopted.
3. Information about the policy and relevant application forms will be updated to reflect the changes to the policy.

It is proposed that current permit holders who are eligible for the transition period would be required to comply with relevant provisions under the *Goods on Footpath Policy 2008* and these would be set out in their permit conditions. Council will also consider applications from existing permit holders that experience hardship as a result of the new policy.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- City of Darebin Council Plan 2009 – 2013
- Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009 - 2013
- Footpath Activities Policy, Council Report 19 May 2008, Economic Development Branch
- City of Darebin Footpath Activities Policy 2008
- Research and Consultation Paper 2007, Economic Development Branch
- City of Darebin Retail Activity Centres Strategy 2005
- Darebin City Council General Local Law 2005 (as amended)

**7.4 DAREBIN WHITE RIBBON ACTION TEAM
ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT**

MINUTE NO. 114

AUTHOR: Preventing Violence Against Women Officer - Monique Bouma

MANAGER: Acting Director Communities and Culture - Dean Griggs

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Ongoing resourcing to be referred to the Council Budget process
2010-2011

SUMMARY:

The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team was formed in May 2008 by staff who wanted to take action to prevent violence against women. Darebin's work in this field has progressed significantly and Darebin is now seen as a leader across the state and is recognised in the national arena.

The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Achievements Report 2009 presents the progress of the last 12 months, matched to the Action Team's Strategic Plan. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's endorsement of the Achievements Report and ongoing support for this important work. This report also provides an update on progress in 2010 and actions planned for this year.

CONSULTATION:

This report was created in consultation with the members of the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. S. Chiang

THAT Council:

- (1) Receive and endorse the *Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Achievements Report 2009* attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Write to peak local government bodies, including the Municipal Association of Victoria, Victorian Local Governance Association and Australian Local Government Association, to circulate the Achievements Report and encourage their state and national leadership on preventing violence against women.
- (3) Send the Achievements Report to Federal Government Minister for the Status of Women, The Hon. Tanya Plibersek, MP, and State Government Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development and Minister for Women's Affairs, The Hon. Maxine Morand, MP.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

The White Ribbon Campaign began in Montreal Canada in 1991 by a handful of men in response to one man's massacre of 14 women. These men felt a responsibility to urge men to speak out against male violence against women. They did this through wearing a white ribbon as a symbol of men's opposition to violence against women.

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly declared 25 November the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the White Ribbon has become the symbol for the day. The campaign runs for 16 days of Action through until 10 December, the International Day for Human Rights.

Still growing, the campaign is now the largest effort in the world of men and women working to end male violence against women and in 2009, is operating in more than fifty-five countries around the world.

Darebin's participation in the White Ribbon Campaign has developed rapidly in recent years.

2005

- Sale of White Ribbons at Customer Service Centres for 16 Days of Action.

2006

- Sale of White Ribbons at Customer Service Centres for 16 Days of Action.

2007

- Sale of White Ribbons at Customer Service Centres for 16 Days of Action.
- 200+ people attend the launch of the Men's and Women's Family Violence Help Cards in October at Melba Spiegeltent in Northcote, with White Ribbons handed out as 'tickets' on entry to the event. White Ribbon Ambassadors, Leigh Gassner and Phil Cleary, amongst speakers.
- Faith leaders from the Darebin Interfaith Council sign their Declaration Against Family Violence on White Ribbon Day.
- White Ribbon Breakfast held for Council staff. Fourteen men attended.

2008

- One male staff member who attended Darebin's White Ribbon breakfast in 2007 suggested staff establish the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team in May 2008.
- Two White Ribbon 'Not Violent Not Silent' breakfasts are held (August and October) in partnership with neighbouring Councils, VicHealth and Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre. Over 200 community leaders attended each event to learn more about the White Ribbon Campaign.
- The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team organises a Council Departmental Challenge for White Ribbon Campaign 2008, whereby all Departments were set the challenge to participate in the campaign.

Activities undertaken included:

- Sale of White Ribbons and wristbands at Customer Service Centres for 16 Days of Action, plus further awareness raising through local newspaper advertising, Council's 'on hold' message and website, and email communications from the Chief Executive Officer.
- White Ribbon stall and Council staff March through Preston Market.
- Council staff Morning Tea and quiz.
- 'Not Violent Not Silent' magnets attached to garbage and other Council trucks for the 16 Days of Action.
- 'Not Violent Not Silent' bookmarks distributed with all library books for the 16 Days of Action.
- Thirteen Council staff and other Darebin leaders attend the premier White Ribbon event at State Parliament.
- Northern Interfaith Leaders event held at MAYA Aboriginal Healing Centre, with two Darebin faith leaders and one Indigenous leader becoming White Ribbon Ambassadors.
- Hugely successful White Ribbon BBQ held at the Council Depot.
- Creation of a six foot wire White Ribbon.
- Staff evaluation of campaign participation and effectiveness.

CORE ISSUES

Darebin is now established as a leader in the field of preventing violence against women. The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team's work has had impact across Council, in the community and across Australia, via the Australian Local Government Association.

The Action Team has gone from strength to strength. In 2009 it achieved a wide range of activities that spread the White Ribbon message that violence against women is serious, prevalent and preventable.

Membership of the Action Team has grown, with currently 17 members who attend monthly meetings and a further 12 who are part of the email network. A Coordinating Group of four members was formed in early 2009 and this has now been expanded to six members. Councillor Trent McCarthy also joined the Action Team in 2009 and became a White Ribbon Ambassador.

The major achievements in 2009 included:

- Councillors took the White Ribbon Oath and Cr Trent McCarthy became a White Ribbon Ambassador. Both Cr Gaetano Greco and Cr Tim Laurence included White Ribbon articles on their Darebin News pages (June 2009 and March 2010 respectively) and Cr Diana Asmar published a Mayor's Message in the Leader newspaper about the White Ribbon Campaign.
- Councillor and Officer invited to present on our participation in the White Ribbon Campaign to the Victorian Local Governance Association Mayors' Retreat.
- The Darebin White Ribbon Action Team developed a Strategic Plan. This was endorsed by Council, and at a board meeting of the Australian Local Government Association and circulated nationally as an example of promising practice.
- Council funded a dedicated Preventing Violence Against Women Officer, 0.4 EFT for three years.
- Darebin was successful in attracting VicHealth funding for two full-time projects: The State-wide Local Government Networking and Capacity Building Project to Prevent Violence Against Women, and the Northern Interfaith Respectful relationships Project.

- Darebin also secured funding for the Northern Region Family Violence Help Card Translation Project from 17 partner organisations, Councils and State Government.
- Darebin was invited to join the White Ribbon National Leadership Group.
- Darebin's Youth Services representative was invited to Sydney to participate in White Ribbon Ambassador resource development process.
- A Councillor and four Council Officers nominated as Ambassadors (these include Cr Trent McCarthy and the Director Development and Amenity, Manager Major Projects and Transport, Acting Director Communities and Culture and a Youth Services representative).
- Gender equity was articulated in Darebin's Council Plan 2009-2013: "We will work to support the right of women to fully and equally engage and participate in the life of the community."
- Preventing violence against women was set as a priority in Darebin's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013. Strategy 1.3 states: "Integrate violence prevention activity across our organisation and in partnership with the community to reduce violence against women and children."
- A huge number of activities were undertaken as part of the White Ribbon Campaign, including community events, staff events and social marketing. Overall, the campaign events engaged about 700 community and staff members. For details of activities, see the attached Achievements Report (**Appendix A**).

Progress in 2010

The Action Team has made a strong start this year, with a series of guest speakers already lined up. Speakers include representatives from the Police, Berry Street, the Courts and Men's Referral Service, as well as Dr Melanie Heenan from VicHealth and Prof Bob Pease from Deakin University. These seminars will engage staff from across Council, increasing organisational knowledge about how to prevent violence against women.

The Action Team members are also increasing their knowledge by participating, as available, in the new VicHealth Short Course to Prevent Violence Against Women.

A Community Meeting is planned for April that will seek to establish a regional White Ribbon Community Group for Darebin, Banyule and Nillumbik, with representation from the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team.

A wide range of events, activities and promotions are planned for Darebin's White Ribbon Campaign in November, with an extra focus this year on engaging sports clubs, the arts and cultural community and early years services. The Action Team is also expanding its role to provide input into key strategies across Council, such as the Leisure Strategy and Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy, and upcoming Youth Strategy, Early Years Strategy and Multicultural Strategy.

Darebin will host two significant events this year. State Government Minister for Women's Affairs, Maxine Morand, will launch the new translated Family Violence Help Cards in April, and as part of the State-wide Local Government Networking and Capacity Building Project. Darebin will also host a White Ribbon Gala Event this year, which will have a national audience. An Action Team member will also continue to represent Darebin at the White Ribbon National Leadership Group.

Challenges and opportunities in 2010

It is now recognised that violence against women and children is prevalent, serious and preventable. The White Ribbon Campaign is a very accessible way to engage staff, the community and mainstream organisations in taking action on this issue.

Local government is identified as a critical setting for action in the State Government's *A Right to Respect: Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010-2020* and in the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2009-2021*.

The development of these significant state and federal strategies in 2009, along with growing community and media interest, has led to many new opportunities for Darebin to expand its work in preventing violence against women and strengthen our leadership and reputation.

The inclusion of preventing violence against women and children as a priority in Darebin's *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013* has been applauded by the Action Team and gives a stronger mandate to the Team's work.

With a host of strong achievements behind us, we now find ourselves with myriad opportunities for action and momentum for change.

The increased activity of Darebin's White Ribbon Campaign in 2009 was made possible with support from the new 0.4 EFT Preventing Violence Against Women Officer, which Council has funded for three years. As such, we will be able to maintain the activity level in 2010, but will have limited ability to expand our work to meet the demands and opportunities presenting.

Numerous community, health, sporting, education, business and other organisations, as well as local, state and federal governments, are looking to the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team for leadership.

The Action Team seeks Council's endorsement of the Achievements Report 2009 and ongoing support for the Team's work, so we can ensure the quality of our work keeps up with our rapidly growing reputation.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

Nil

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Violence against women is now recognised as one of the most widespread, yet hidden, human rights abuses in the world. Women who experience violence suffer from decreased physical, mental and emotional health, social isolation and are less able to participate in community life. Children exposed to violence are less able to form healthy attachments and may experience significant emotional, physical and developmental issues.

Disadvantaged groups are most at risk. Women from Aboriginal and CALD backgrounds and women with disabilities suffer higher rates of violence and have less capacity to access support and leave violent situations. For example, evidence shows that a vast majority of women with an intellectual disability experience sexual assault.

Family violence affects not just women and their children, but our whole society. By increasing women's safety, and thus capacity to participate in community life, we are making a significant investment in the health and wellbeing of the whole Darebin community.

Other

The work of the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team strongly supports Darebin's strategic direction of '*Our people. Our place. Our future*'. The Council Plan 2009-2013 states an overarching commitment to gender equity: "We will work to support the right of women to fully and equally engage and participate in the life of the community". Darebin's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-13 also includes a priority strategy to "integrate violence prevention activity across our organisation and in partnership with the community to reduce violence against women and children".

The Action Team's work also aligns with Darebin's Human Rights Project, Social Inclusion Framework, Diversity Policy and Council's broader commitment to respect, social justice and community wellbeing.

As promised in the Council Plan, this initiative "goes beyond simply continuing to deliver services" by embracing forward thinking, affirmative action, capacity building and innovative leadership.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Over the last three years, Darebin has attracted \$565,000 of external funding for family violence projects, including the State-wide Local Government Networking and Capacity Building Project to Prevent Violence Against Women, the Northern Interfaith Respectful Relationships Project and the Northern Region Family Violence Help Card Translation Project.

Council has also funded a Preventing Violence Against Women Pilot Project, which provides a 0.4 EFT (2 days/week) position for three years (2009/2010 - 2011/2012). Current funding enables the officer to work in a few select settings within Council to work on projects that contribute to preventing violence against women. It also includes supporting the Darebin White Ribbon Action Team and coordinating Darebin's White Ribbon campaign.

We now find ourselves with numerous opportunities and momentum for change, but with the Preventing Violence Against Women Pilot Project funded at only 2 days a week, we do not have the capacity to fully meet this demand and consolidate our achievements. These resourcing issues have been referred to the Council Budget process for 2010-2011.

If resourcing increased, this role would be able to ensure the sustainability of this work by embedding substantial improvements across Council, building staff capacity and adding value to services.

It would also extend the White Ribbon Campaign into the community – building partnerships among sports, business, health and community groups, schools, residents and other local governments – to ensure the continuity of the local campaign is not dependent on Council. A full-time role would also be better placed to seek external funding.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Council endorses Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Achievements Report
- Achievements Report to be circulated widely
- Increased resourcing of position has been referred to the Council Budget process 2010-2011
- Darebin White Ribbon Action Team guest speaker series to continue

- New translated Family Violence Help Cards to be launched by Minister Maxine Morand in April
- Wide range of activities to be held for Darebin's White Ribbon Campaign in November.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Achievements Report (**Appendix A**)
- A Right to Respect: Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010-2020
- National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2009-2021
- Darebin Council Plan 2009-2013
- Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013
- Council Report 21 September 2009: Darebin White Ribbon Action Team Update.

7.5 THE Y-UTE PROGRAM EVALUATION**MINUTE NO. 115**

AUTHOR: Youth Services Coordinator - Nik Filips
Social Research and Service Development - Katherine Wositzky

MANAGER: Acting Director Communities and Culture - Dean Griggs

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Ongoing resourcing is being sought externally and has also been referred to Council budget 2010/2011

SUMMARY:

The Y-Ute crew has been running for 2 years as an outreach program funded by the Federal Government. The Y-Ute program has been evaluated and found to be a successful way to outreach to young people especially those who do not access Council or other youth services.

The Y-Ute crew provides information activities, responses to resident concerns and acts as a cross departmental focal point to consult and obtain young peoples opinions and feedback.

The Y-Ute crew is externally funded and due to end in November 2010; being a successful program, this is a program that should continue

CONSULTATION:

Manger Social Inclusion and Diversity
Victoria Police
Connex
Young people /service users
Council staff
Darebin Local Safety Committee
Darebin Community Health Service
East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal Steering Committee

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council forward the Y-Ute program evaluation report to local Members of Parliament and relevant Ministers to seek their support for this innovative project.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT:

- (1) Council organise a high profile media launch of the Y-Ute program evaluation report and invite police, youth groups and local Members of Parliament and relevant Ministers to seek their support for the continuation of this innovative project.
- (2) Council refer future resourcing issues for the Y-Ute program to the 2010/2011 Council budget process.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

The Darebin Youth Outreach and Activities Project, known as *the Y-Ute Crew* was developed in response to a Council Community Safety audit in 2006 which identified residents, local service providers and other key agencies concerns of young people's anti-social and at-risk behaviour. Following the audit, a youth outreach program was piloted by Darebin's Youth Services which formulated the concept and approach of the *Y-Ute crew*. In October 2007 the program was funded for a total of \$150,000 for three years through the Commonwealth National Community Crime Prevention Program (NCCPP).

The *Y-Ute crew* has developed and grown to become an integral and unique part of Council's Youth Services team with a pivotal role of outreach to at-risk young people as well as building bridges in the community between young people and local communities.

CORE ISSUES

The evaluation report (**Appendix A**) captures the development, processes, challenges and impact of the *Y-Ute crew* on the targeted audience and the Darebin community. The evaluation results clearly report overwhelming support for the *Y-Ute crew* and its work with young people as well as evidence of the ongoing need for such services that address disadvantage and build opportunities for creating more inclusive and safe communities for all.

The *Y-Ute crew* vehicle a 1974 Holden utility was donated to Council in 2006 by a local resident who liked the concept of an outreach service. Additional funds were secured from Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal to train 8 unemployed young people to restore and customise the vehicle.

The *Y-Ute crew* employs 1 part-time staff member 16 hours per week and 1 casual staff member 12 hours per week. The *Y-Ute crew* is run from a customised burnt Orange 1971 HQ Holden utility and operates in the following main ways

- Neighbourhood /street based activity programs 2 nights per week, 4 hours each session
- Outreach to identified hotspots 1 Saturday evening per week, 4 hour session

- Theme based excursion and camps such as surfing and skateboarding
- Participation in community festivals and events such as police community days, neighbourhood renewal open days, Darebin youth summit, Darebin festival and local street parties
- Acts as a response to local resident and internal Council department concern on issues such as parks, transport stations and congregation points
- Acts as a cross Council youth consultation team in issues such as Preston skate park development, alcohol free zones, open space strategy and graffiti management
- The *Y-Ute crew* report to the Darebin Local Safety Committee as its project reference group on a regular basis.

The evaluation report identifies the following key outcomes. Briefly, these include:

- Program was developed in response to local community and police requests to address anti-social behaviour
- The young people who are the target group of the program are from some of Darebin's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- The *Y-Ute crew* model was developed over time applying an integrated approach involving the target group, affected neighbourhoods and key agencies and services.
- The evaluation results clearly report overwhelming support for the *Y-Ute crew* and its work with young people as well as evidence of the ongoing need for such services.
- The program has been successful in engaging the targeted young people through providing activities of interest and by developing and portraying a 'service' type and style that is appealing and "cool" to belong to.
- The evaluation identified over 25 community events in the past year where young people actively participated in the program or the event through or alongside the *Y-Ute crew*.
- A number and range of leadership opportunities for the targeted young people have been provided through the *Y-Ute crew* and again this was reported as a highly successful and valued part of the program..
- As an outreach service the program has been able to extensively outreach to young people in the Darebin community. Visiting between 15-35 'hot spots' (such as at railway stations, parks) and reaching up to 150 young people per night,
- The presence of the *Y-Ute crew* at these 'hot spots' and their ability to facilitate communication between young people and other concerned parties has on a number of occasions managed to disperse a situation prior to it escalating into potential violence.
- The extensive 'reach' of the program is clearly illustrated by the range of services and communities who have come into contact with the program.
- Substantial benefits and gains were reported by all service providers in the evaluation who had had contact with the program and a number of successful working relationships and partnerships have been formed both within and outside Council.
- One focus of the program funding was to improve community perceptions of young people and community safety.
- The evaluation of the *Y-Ute crew* concludes far reaching achievements and success factors for the target group, communities and service providers involved.
- In particular the *Y-Ute* capacity to promote a sense of belonging and meaningful connections with the young people and between the young people and the wider community has reduced

feelings of exclusion and disengagement and promoted community relationships, cohesion and inclusion.

- The current level of funding for the program is very limited and allows only a part-time program with considerable “in-kind” provision from the City of Darebin.
- The evaluation report identifies some challenges for the program and includes recommendations for the continuation of the program and considerations to improve the sustainability of the *Y-Ute crew*.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Nil.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The Y-Ute program works with a range of groups to ensure social inclusion is a key outcome. The program promotes engagement, wellbeing and community safety amongst all participants.

Other

Nil.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Commonwealth funding for the *Y-Ute crew* will end on 1 November 2010. There is evidence that while the program has been a success it has the capacity to continue the work provided it has ongoing funding. There is also evidence that an enhanced youth program could operate with more staff hours with additional budget

Youth services staff team are applying for external funding but this is both uncertain and would only be for a short period such as 1 to 2 years when we would be faced with the same situation as now.

There is not capacity of the other members of the youth services team to either undertake the work done by the *Y-Ute crew* staff due to existing workloads and commitments and given the necessity of mainly after hours work and the specialist skills required.

FUTURE ACTIONS

That Youth Services:

- Continue to apply for external funds to maintain the *Y-Ute crew*. Approximately \$60,000 per annum is required to continue the Y-Ute crew in its current or slightly modified form.
- Refer resourcing issues to the 2010/2011 Council budget process to continue the *Y-Ute crew* in its current form.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Evaluation of the City of Darebin's Y-Ute crew undertaken by Social Inclusion and Diversity Branch October 2009 – see **Appendix A**.
- Preston skate park feasibility study

7.6 SUSTAINABLE FOOD**MINUTE NO. 116****AUTHOR:** Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett**MANAGER:** Executive Manager, Environmental Sustainability - Libby Hynes**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Actions within the report will be referred to 2010/2011 budget considerations**SUMMARY:**

This report responds to the Council resolution of 21 September 2009, *that Council officers prepare a report detailing options and implications for Council to show support for and promote sustainable food choices to the community.*

Accordingly the report outlines the environmental, social and economic impacts of food growing and identifies more sustainable food options - minimising red meat and dairy products; eating more seasonal, locally grown, less-processed, plant based products; minimising food waste; and choosing ethical options such as fair trade and free range. There is a high degree of overlap between promoting sustainable food and promoting healthy, nutritious and low cost food options.

Council's current activities to promote sustainable food and address food security are outlined, as are community initiatives.

Recommendations for new actions include:

- Advocacy on a range of food issues to State and Federal Government
- Consultancy to review food growing opportunities in public open space
- Special grant program to support existing community gardens to deliver education programs to encourage more people to grow food at home
- Information about seasonal produce
- Education program around growing food in containers
- Development of a Food Security Policy
- Establish an ongoing internal working group re Food Security and Sustainable Food.

It is recommended that \$75,000 be referred to the 2010/2011 budget process to fund these new initiatives.

CONSULTATION:

Darebin Environmental Reference Group, Transition Darebin, Darebin Climate Action Now, Sustainability Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Australian Marine Conservation Society, the Regional Food Kitchen and other Councils. Internal consultation included staff from the Community Access, Health and Safety Unit, Open Space Planning, Civic Services and Strategic Planning.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council:

- (1) Note this report and the actions currently being undertaken to support and promote sustainable food choices to the community.
- (2) Refer consideration for the new initiatives outlined in this report to the 2010/2011 budget process.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on 21 September 2009, Council resolved:

That Council officers prepare a report detailing options and implications for Council to show support for and promote sustainable food choices to the community

Sustainable food implies consideration of the environmental and social equity issues related to food production and distribution ie. food security. The global impacts and issues regarding the most common forms of food production and consumption in western countries are significant, alarming and completely unsustainable. For a summary of the environmental impacts of food, food security and ethical issues see **Appendix A**.

1. Options for Eating More Sustainably

In general, the options for reducing the environmental impacts of food also support increased food security and healthier diets. Plant based unprocessed food is more cost effective and efficient to produce, has less environmental impacts and is more equitable because it allows more people access to a cost effective nutritious diet. Producing and supporting local food production reduces food miles and enhances community resilience to impacts of climate change, loss of arable land and peak oil. Choosing organic food is usually not an option for vulnerable groups who have limited access to a nutritious diet due to the price premium, but if more people who can afford to, support the use of local organics, this will also help increase the sustainability of our food production. In Australia and other western countries food wastage is also very high and reducing waste is an important opportunity.

Key options for more sustainable food choices:

1.1 Minimise or Avoid Meat and Dairy and avoid endangered Seafood

Meat (particularly red meat) and dairy are more resource intensive to produce and create more greenhouse gas emissions than plant based foods. Many of the common diet related diseases in Australia and other wealthy nations are due to diets high in fats and benefit substantially from a switch to less processed, more plant based foods. Becoming vegetarian or vegan may not be immediately appealing or practical for many people, but it is relatively easy to reduce consumption of red meat and dairy with positive sustainability and health benefits.

Many people are unaware of which types of seafood are over fished or endangered. The Australian Marine Conservation Society aims to increase awareness and make it easier for consumers to make sustainable seafood choices via the Australian Sustainable Seafood Guide and its online information (www.acms.org.au).

Nothing will benefit human health or increase the chances for survival of life on earth as the evolution to a vegetarian diet. Albert Einstein

1.2 Reduce Food Miles and Choose Produce in Season

Growing food locally has positive food security benefits in addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and use of resources. Growing some vegetables, fruit and/or herbs at home and buying locally produced in season produce reduces environmental impacts, supports local food producers and can be more nutritious and rewarding. Buying less processed food will also reduce environmental impacts and increase health benefits.

1.3 Choose Organic Food

In Australia retail sales of organic lines are growing fast at 25% a year and even faster (28%) in the Asia-pacific region. Despite industry growth, domestic and export market demand for certified organic produce still exceeds the Australian supply. There are many international studies exploring the relative benefits of different agriculture systems and results vary depending on food type, production system and location. While it is not possible to say that all organic production is better for the environment than all conventional production, there are demonstrated benefits (biodiversity, land, soil health and water efficiency) for many food types. Extensive review of controlled comparison studies shows that organic plant based foods are on average more nutritious than conventional produce.

1.4 Minimise Waste

Given that up to 50% of food grown is currently wasted, this is a significant opportunity for addressing scarcity and equity issues. Choosing less packaged and processed foods also helps minimise waste to landfill.

1.5 Choose Ethical Options

Fair Trade branding aims to ensure fair pay and conditions for workers in developing countries. Markets for Fair Trade produce are on the increase with increased sales by 42% in 2006 - and Australian and New Zealand sales make up almost half the global sales in 2006/2007.

Factory or intensive farming including chickens, pigs, turkeys and eggs is an ethical issue and these farming practices can also result in localised environmental pollution. Minimising the use of animal products and choosing free range options for eggs, chicken and pork will have positive environmental and ethical outcomes.

Avoiding or minimising the use of products such as palm oil is also recommended as palm oil plantations are driving land clearing in Borneo and Sumatra and placing the endangered orang utan at further risk. The Ethical Supermarket Guide provides information about the corporate behaviour and social and environmental impacts of the companies producing many supermarket products.

CORE ISSUES

2. Council's current activities to promote Sustainable Food

2.1 Seminars and Information re Sustainable Food, Gardening and Composting

The Environmental Sustainability Branch delivers seminars and workshops around sustainable gardening, including 'Grow your own Food' seminars each year. The 'Spring into Compost' program also helps support the diversion of food waste from landfill and promotes home gardening. In 2009 the Sustainable Homes program introduced a new 'Sustainable Eating' event which was very popular with more than 180 people attending. This theme will be continued via the Sustainable Homes and Communities program (pending 2010/2011 budget consideration) and via ongoing seminars and events. Sustainable gardening and food education is supported via Darebin's Sustainable Gardening booklet and Food Fact Sheet (**Appendix B**).

At its meeting on 1 February 2010, Council resolved:

That Council officers report back to Council on the feasibility of creating a city-wide competition for the best fruit and vegetable gardens with a view to engaging our diverse community and recognise gardeners with a community prize.

This provides an opportunity for recognising achievements as well as inspiring and educating other members of the community to grow food. This 'General Business' request is being addressed via a separate Council report also to be considered by Council at its 6 April Council meeting (see Report No. 7.7).

2.2 Darebin and Banyule Good Food Alliance

The Darebin and Banyule Good Food Alliance aims to address food access in the most disadvantaged areas in the two municipalities. In addition to Darebin and Banyule Councils, alliance partners include Darebin and Banyule Community Health Services, Primary Care Partnership, Health and Disability Services, Neighbourhood Houses, Department of Health and community groups. The Alliance's activities have included community information forums on healthy eating and food security, a Healthy Eating for Children program and a range of research projects including *Healthy Eating and Produce Gardening Survey* (2005) and the *Healthy Food Basket Survey* (2006), a *Food Security in Darebin Scoping Paper* (2008) which includes a policy context for food security, a community-wide survey about how food security affects local residents and GIS maps on food access and supply in the municipality, and most recently the *Role of Local Government in Food Security: A Literature Review* (2009) in partnership with La Trobe University.

2.3 Community Health and Wellbeing Plan

Darebin's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2009-2013 identifies the importance of good food and food security for the health and wellbeing of Darebin residents.

2.4 Development of a Food Security Policy

An action arising from the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is the development of a Food Security Policy which is currently under development with funding from the Department of Health. The key focus of the Food Security Policy is around enhancing access to food in Darebin, particularly for our most vulnerable community members.

2.5 East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal and Community Gardens

The East Reservoir Neighbourhood Renewal program has a number of projects to support healthy eating and capacity building in the East Reservoir area. This includes the development of the new East Reservoir Community Gardens, with development funding from the Department of Human Services and Department of Sustainability and Environment. Other projects are a Breakfast Club at Reservoir East Primary School, healthy eating programs at local primary schools involving kitchen gardens incorporated into curriculum, and a healthy food policy for events and meetings.

2.6 Community Grants

Applications to support sustainable food gardens are common via the Darebin Community Grants program. Projects by schools' parents groups, neighbourhood houses, community organisations and existing community gardens to develop food gardens and/or education programs around these gardens have been funded through the Community Grants program.

2.7 Land Use Planning and Transport

Opportunities to raise awareness of food security issues in the planning of future communities; access to healthy food and potential for food growing despite future higher densities in urban areas. Work that could impact on this includes the preparation of Structure Plans and the Planning Scheme Review. Land use planning could support and encourage the use of Council land for urban agriculture. 'Love Living Local' programs encourage the use of local shops, distribution of fresh food access maps and improvement of pedestrian and cycling links to key shopping destinations. On a long term basis, as opportunities arise, Council could also advocate to State Government on food security issues in the planning of residential areas.

3. **Current Community Activities**

There are a range of organisations and community initiated activities that support sustainable food across Darebin including:

- 38% of the Darebin community grow vegetables at home
- 7 existing community gardens, 3 with plots for residents (see **Appendix C**)
- Bundoora Park Farmers market (produce produced locally in regional Victoria)
- CERES - urban orchard food swap project, produce market and the new Food Connect project an organic food distribution service that supports local farmers and other programs including cooking workshops etc
- Food Cooperatives
- Permablitz - volunteers participate in a permaculture makeover for backyards

- Transition Darebin - local community group that is aiming to help transition to a low energy economy. Food is a priority issue for the group and current projects include the development of a 'Local Food Guide' and Compost Mate trials.

4. Current State and Local Government Activities

What's happening at the State Level:

- Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Food Print project. DSE have engaged consultants to develop criteria for food purchased across government and then trial in a number of State Government Departments. Aiming for some results later this year.
- Sustainability Victoria is currently going through a competitive quotation process to select a panel of preferred caterers with inclusion of sustainability issues as selection criteria.

Other Councils leading in this area:

- Brisbane - sustainable food education including urban gardening and roof top gardening promotion
- Vancouver - Food Policy Coalition since 1993 and Vancouver Food Charter (2007)
- London Sustainable Food Link - public agency procurement favouring local producers within 100 mile radius of CBD and supporting programs
- Maribyrnong - Food Security Policy (generally considered a leader in the area) and a part-time community food growing coordinator
- Hobsons Bay and Wodonga both have Food Security Policies
- Boroondara - developing sustainable catering guidelines

5. Recommended New Darebin Actions

In addition to continuing the current actions outlined in section 2. Above the following new activities are proposed.

5.1 Advocacy Issues

Many of the actions that could promote sustainable food production and supply are best implemented at a regional, state or national level. Darebin can play a role by advocating to the State and Federal Governments regarding the following actions:

- Development of an Integrated Sustainable Food Policy and organisational structures to support this
- The Victorian Planning Scheme Review to include Sustainable Food and Food Security Issues including:
 - Protecting current market gardens at the urban fringe (eg. Werribee) from urban growth
 - Supporting urban agriculture via recognition in the planning scheme and establishment of an urban agriculture land use zone
- Purchasing preferences via Government and Public Agencies for local and sustainable food eg. The London Hub.
- Better food labelling to allow consumers to make more sustainable choices including disclosure of origin for fresh produce and fish, labelling of all genetically modified content etc.
- Further research and evaluation of life cycle impacts of Victorian and Australian food as most research is from overseas where the food producing context and transport distances are quite different.

- Support of sustainable water use for household and urban agriculture food growing purposes.
- Support of rail freight and food distribution systems more resilient to the impacts of peak oil.
- Promoting and supporting community initiatives for more sustainable food options, including meat free days, urban agriculture etc.

5.2 Supporting Urban Agriculture

Large amounts of plant based food can be grown in cities. Cuban cities now produce 60% of their vegetables (in response to the oil crisis), US Victory gardens in World War II produced up to 40% of the national food supply. Australians have a strong history of urban food supply and from the most recent records (1992), Victoria already has the largest number of households growing fruit and vegetables. The 2008 Food Access and Security Survey Report indicates that 38% of respondents were growing vegetables in Darebin (47% herbs and 34% fruit trees).

There are many reasons to primarily support and encourage urban agriculture opportunities on private land including:

- There is more private land available
- The greater capacity to protect, maintain and harvest produce
- The competing uses and needs for public land
- The high level of resources required to establish and maintain community gardens.

With increasing urban consolidation and apartment living, not all residents are able to grow food in a yard. Community gardens and food plants (eg. fruit and nut trees or vegetables) in public space are also a community asset that supports community networks, builds capacity and inspires and educates people to grow food. It is also an adaptation strategy for climate change and peak oil. In general, growing more fruit trees in public open space will be more cost effective and practical than establishing new community gardens and considering food trees as street trees (where suitability, maintenance costs and risk issues are barriers).

The Open Space Strategy identifies the need to conduct a strategic review of where and how community gardens (which are traditionally fenced with limited access) may be supported in Darebin.

New Initiative proposal: Consultancy Work to Review Opportunities to Support Food Growing in Public Areas. This would include a review of existing policies (The Open Space Strategy and Parks Master Plans, Green Streets and Nature Strip Beautification Policy) to identify opportunities for growing more food in public space including consideration of maintenance issues with a view to establishing Council / Community agreements for caring for food plantings. To include a review of existing community gardens (by location and accessibility) and gaps and opportunities including a review of high density areas and other needs (eg. water access) to develop a Food in public spaces and Community Garden policy and guidelines for the establishment, resourcing and maintenance of further Community Gardens in Darebin.

Estimated cost \$50,000

New Initiative proposal: Consider the establishment of a special grant program for existing community food gardens to deliver food growing education to the community. These grants would further support existing community gardens including food gardens in schools by supporting them to deliver food growing educational activities to other members of the public. This would increase access to these important community assets and inspire and share information to result in more members of the community growing their own food at home. The grants could be included as a special category of the current Community Grants program.

Estimated Cost \$15,000/year

New Initiative Proposal: Include Consideration of Food Growing in Planning Strategies Including the Municipal Strategic Statement and Precinct Plans

Building on the current consideration of potential food growing via the development of the Reservoir and Northland Structure Plans, broad level commitments for supporting urban agriculture could be incorporated into the Municipal Strategic Statement and other Precinct Plans. This will also strengthen opportunities for Council to work with and encourage developers to consider supporting sustainable food initiatives in new developments.

In addition to the above actions, further opportunities to partner with and support community initiatives and other organisations progressing urban agriculture will be investigated on an ongoing basis. For example, Permablitz has funding and support from the City of Greater Dandenong, Sustainability Victoria and the Department of Planning and Community Development through the Greater Dandenong Edible Gardens Project and CERES are currently piloting the Food Connect initiative to distribute food grown locally in regional Victoria available to consumers in the Central Business District.

5.3 New Council Education Initiatives

New Initiative proposal: Development of seasonal fruit and vegetable information

This would encourage the use of seasonal produce that is often cheaper, more nutritious and has generally lower greenhouse emissions as it is not refrigerated or grown in temperature controlled areas. Simple and low cost recipes could be included to assist people without experience in cooking for themselves to prepare cheap and healthy meals. The information would particularly target low income and vulnerable members of the community. It could be translated to target new arrival ethnic groups who may not be familiar with Australian produce. Cooking classes that target at risk groups to prepare cost effective plant based nutritious meals could also be scoped.

New Initiative proposal: Growing food in containers seminar and starter kits.

The 2008 Food Access and Security Survey Report indicated that the most common reason preventing respondents from growing some food at home is 'Don't have enough space' (33.5%). For residents in apartments and renters etc growing some food in containers particularly herbs, fresh greens and tomatoes can be a good option for providing a nutritious home grown supplement to the diet. The seminar would aim to target people in these categories and provide them with the knowledge and some of the basic starter products to commence growing their own.

Estimated Cost for enhancing education programs in general \$10,000

The fruit and vegetable award program will also be a new educational initiative and one that supports urban agriculture. This is dealt with in a separate Council report – see Report No. 7.7 to this meeting.

5.4 Purchasing Preferences: Opportunities for demonstrating Council leadership and influence.

- Council Catering - to demonstrate leadership it is recommended that Council Dinners be fully vegetarian once a month. It is also recommended that caterers be provided with the Sustainable Seafood guide and be requested to avoid wherever possible the purchase of overfished and vulnerable species and unsustainable seacage aquaculture. The guide also provides information about preferable options such as whiting, bream, flathead, calamari and tropical trevally.
- Promote and encourage staff to choose more sustainable food options and to make use of community enterprises such as Sliding Door Cafe which in addition to providing training opportunities and employment pathways also includes healthy food options and purchases locally produced seasonal produce and organic foods where possible.
- When competitive processes are undertaken for catering in the future include consideration of sustainable food issues as one of the selection criteria. In the near future Darebin will be able to draw on the Department of Sustainability and Environment's 'Foodprint' pilot program and the experiences of Sustainability Victoria's request for tender process in developing schedules around Sustainable Food.
- The Regional Food Kitchen (RFK) is planning to include Sustainable Food as a consideration when they commence procurement processes. Darebin has the opportunity to work with the RFK to support this process.

5.5 Develop a Food Security Policy

Develop a Food Security Policy and Action Plan for the City of Darebin to outline Council's role in addressing local food security issues across the built, natural, social and economic environments, which will include ways to promote and support sustainable food and provide a planning platform to address the issues identified above.

It is important to note that the new initiatives outlined in this report if endorsed and implemented will sit under the Food Security Policy but this Policy will also identify other actions more specifically aimed at households currently experiencing food insecurity or at risk of food insecurity. The actions in this report focus on sustainable food and building community resilience over time to food insecurity issues.

5.6 Establish an Internal Working Group

Secure and Sustainable Food is a multi disciplinary issue and the current and recommended actions outlined above cross a number of work units and departments within Council. To continue to liaise and progress this issue it is recommended that an ongoing internal working group with representation from Open Space Planning, Community Health and Well-being, Strategic Planning, Environmental Strategy and other units/branches as required meet regularly (at least every two months) to liaise on new opportunities and progress actions.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

As outlined in **Appendix A** (attached) and the body of this report the environmental impacts of conventional food growing are significant. There are many easy options for reducing the environmental impacts of food and these options also help contribute to a healthy and cost effective diet.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Around one in ten Darebin residents are currently experiencing food insecurity. Climate change and other environmental pressures, peak oil and increasing population mean that all people are potentially at risk of food insecurity. The world's poor and vulnerable members of the community will continue to be the hardest hit. There is a high degree of overlap in sustainable food solutions and nutritious low cost options for people experiencing food insecurity.

Other

The proposed new initiatives outlined in this report will contribute to the Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan and build community resilience. Communities that have urban agriculture skills and practices and support structures in place will be better equipped to upscale these initiatives and respond more positively when the impacts of peak oil and climate change become more dramatic.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is proposed that \$75,000 (\$50,000 one off funding and \$25,000 recurrent) be referred to the 2010/2011 budget consideration process for the actions recommended within this report. These new initiatives would require new funding or reallocation of funds from existing services or programs.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Regular Working Group Meetings and implementation of proposed new initiatives pending the 2010/2011 budget consideration process.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

2007 Darebin Community Survey

2008 Darebin Food Access and Security Survey Report

Darebin Open Space Strategy

Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan

Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan

Draft Darebin Food Security Policy

City of Banyule and City of Darebin, 2009, *The Role of Local Government in Food Security: A Literature Review*.

VEIL (Victorian Eco Innovation Lab), 2008, *Sustainable and Secure Food Systems for Victoria*

Victorian Local Government Association, 2009, *Integrating Land Use Planning and Community Food Security*

Public Health Association of Australia, 2009 *A Future for Food: Addressing Public Health, Sustainability and Equity from Paddock to Plate.*

**7.7 DAREBIN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDEN
COMPETITION****MINUTE NO. 117****AUTHOR:** Executive Manager, Environmental Sustainability - Libby Hynes**MANAGER:** Acting Chief Executive Officer - Jan Black**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Actions within the report will be referred to 2010/2011 budget considerations**SUMMARY:**

This report responds to the Council resolution of 1 February 2010 *that Council officers report back to Council on the feasibility of creating a city-wide competition for the best fruit and vegetable gardens with a view to engaging our diverse community and recognise gardeners with a community prize.*

The report outlines the options and benefits of supporting fruit and vegetable gardening within the municipality and recommends that \$30,000 be referred to the 2010/2011 budget process to fund this initiative.

CONSULTATION:

Darebin Environmental Reference Group, staff from Open Space Planning, Arts and Cultural Development, Social Inclusion and Diversity.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note this report regarding a proposed Darebin Fruit and Vegetable Garden Competition and refer consideration of \$30,000 funding for the initiatives outlined in the report to the 2010/2011 budget process.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council note this report regarding a proposed Darebin Fruit and Vegetable Garden Competition and refer consideration of a range of between \$5,000 - \$30,000 funding for the initiatives outlined in the report to the 2010/2011 budget process.

CARRIED**REPORT**

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 1 February 2010, Council requested the following:

That Council officers report back to Council on the feasibility of creating a city-wide competition for the best fruit and vegetable gardens with a view to engaging our diverse community and recognise gardeners with a community prize.

A concurrent report regarding Sustainable Food also details background and policy regarding this broader issue – see previous Report No. 7.6 to this meeting.

A sustainable garden award was held in Darebin in spring 2004 in conjunction with the launch of Darebin's sustainable gardening handbook, green waste bins and compost program. There were few gardens nominated and the awards were subsequently discontinued. Promotions, however did not specifically target culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities. Declining nominations for awards in various Council programs is a consistent trend.

A proposal regarding a fruit and vegetable produce/ garden award has been discussed in support of the current Homemade Wine and Beer Festival which is very well patronised in November. The major drawback to this complementary activity is considered that the current timing of the festival in November does not coincide with peak growing/harvest periods.

CORE ISSUES

The following policies and plans consider and support fruit and vegetable gardening/produce within the municipality: Adaptation, Water Conservation, Climate Change, Social Inclusion, Community Health and Wellbeing, Food Security and Waste Management.

In considering the intent within these plans the following desired objectives related to organising a Darebin fruit and vegetable garden competition were developed:

- Increase the number of people in Darebin growing fruit and vegetables sustainably
- Provide inspiration and education around fruit and vegetable gardening for people not currently growing fruit and vegetables and/or those who want to do more
- Recognition of successful home food gardeners
- Celebration of cultural heritage
- Encouraging linkages between new or aspiring gardeners and established gardening communities
- Better knowledge about sustainable food and seasonal produce and the reasons why growing food is of increasing importance .

These principles were discussed with key staff and Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG) and the following options were developed:

Options

1. Hold an annual garden competition

A garden competition could involve anything from a simple competition advertised a few times in the local newspaper to a heavily promoted high profile award with high profile judges and prizes. Achieving the above listed objectives through the design of the competition lends itself to a more complex task than a simple newspaper advertised competition. Engaging a broad audience and capitalising on education and inspiration are desired components to achieve the listed aims.

Promoting the awards through CALD groups, Darebin Ethnic Communities Council and at the Darebin Home Made Wine and Beer Festival will assist in engaging sections of the community actively engaged in fruit and vegetable gardening and in meeting the objectives above.

Discussions with key officers and DERG favour an awards program that could record gardens or aspects of gardens on a DVD which could be used for promotional and education purposes around sustainable food, health and celebrating cultural diversity. This could be developed in a similar format to local gardening shows such as Vasili's Garden and could be widely distributed through screenings at events like the wine festival and through internet downloads. Partnering with a program like Vasili's Garden may be beneficial.

2. Showcase and celebrate examples of Darebin Fruit and Vegetable Gardens in local media with weekly/monthly prizes for showcased gardens.

A fixed award is not necessary to celebrate and demonstrate high quality Darebin gardens. Through either a local newspaper, the web page, or the proposed community newspaper gardens of all types can be showcased. The Geelong Advertiser undertook this recently in the Geelong community, showcasing a different garden each few days leading up to an "8 page spread" of the best vegie gardens in the region (providing an opportunity for garden supplier and hardware advertising). This type of competition/show case could be undertaken for a number of weeks or months with each garden showcased receiving a small prize. Additionally the broader community could be encouraged to submit their own or a neighbour/friend/relation's garden for consideration. Different garden styles from small to large, to community or school gardens could be showcased. The case studies could be used to augment existing Council programs such as the Environmental Sustainability Branch 'Grow Your Own Food' seminars.

3. Hold an open garden day

The Sustainable Homes Program has held a bus tour of sustainable homes and gardens as part of its program which has proven to be very popular. The program has its limitations in the number of people who can be involved and the logistics in organising the program including insurance and risk aspects of strangers entering private homes and gardens. There may be few home gardeners keen to allow strangers enter their homes. Additional translation resources and separate buses to include specific or mixed CALD groups would require further resources. This is not a preferred option as it is considered to be resource intensive and more intrusive than other listed options. The Sustainable Food briefing proposes a special grant program for existing community food gardens to deliver food growing education to the community - this would increase community access to existing community gardens and would provide a garden visit option for residents. These grants would further support existing community gardens including food gardens in schools by supporting them to deliver food growing educational activities to other members of the public.

4. Hold an annual garden produce competition at Darebin festival

Many regional shows hold garden produce competitions awarding prizes to the best fruit and vegetable products of the region as well as novelty prizes such as the biggest pumpkin. Darebin Festival is held in March which coincides with the peak harvest period for many fruits and vegetables and could easily accommodate a competition of this type. This style of competition would engage with a broad audience and would be able to be supported with education and information around growing food as well as celebrating Darebin's cultural diversity with food preparation demonstrations etc. This style of competition was also thought to be particularly engaging for children and could include a separate category for younger gardeners and school gardens. This option could be incorporated into Darebin festival planning and advertising. The food swap at the recent Darebin festival attracted much community interest and media attention.

Resourcing

The resourcing required to develop some or all of the above aspects is envisaged to range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 in addition to staff time to meet the desired objectives. Darebin could undertake all the above listed options in an integrated way or just focus on a single option. For example holding an annual garden produce competition at Darebin Festival could be undertaken for approximately \$5,000, dependent on prizes, required space and equipment, judging, advertising and preparation work and associated presentations/education. Promotions could be included with Darebin Festival promotions but targeted involvement of schools, clubs or communities with enough lead up for them to be fully involved (starting in spring) might require additional resourcing, depending on the extent of contact.

An annual garden award including potential DVD production could cost in the range of \$30,000, depending on the length and level of professional filming/production of the DVD. Simple translations or voiceovers in different languages could be incorporated into versions of the DVD to target particular groups.

This type of project could see support and donations from businesses and community. Prizes could be sourced from local businesses. Volunteering for judging/filming/DVD productions could potentially be sourced from educational institutions and community groups. It is recognised that setting up these types of volunteering opportunities can be resource intensive in their own right.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Encouraging fruit and vegetable growing has many environmental advantages as canvassed in this report and the related Sustainable Food Report (Report No. 7.6). It is included as an issue or action in Council's Climate Change, Adaptation and Waste Management strategies.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Fruit and vegetable growing as well as the preparation of food are important cultural activities that can be shared across cultures. There is a wealth of knowledge in our community and different cultures around this issue and this knowledge can act as a focus for understanding and sharing in different cultural experiences.

Around one in ten Darebin residents are currently experiencing food insecurity. The poor and vulnerable members of the community are those most affected and impacts will increase related to climate change and peak oil. There is a high degree of overlap in sustainable food solutions and nutritious low cost options for people experiencing food insecurity.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Initiatives included within this report could cost between \$5,000 to \$ 50,000, dependent on the package of options adopted. It is recommended that \$30,000 be considered in the 2010/2011 budget process which would allow an award program and additional promotion components to be developed. Contributions and sponsorships would be sought from other organisations and businesses.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Implementation of initiatives pending the 2010/2011 budget consideration process.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Sustainable Food Council Report being considered at this meeting

2008 Darebin Food Access and Security Survey Report

Darebin Climate Change and Peak Oil Adaptation Plan

Darebin Community Health and Wellbeing Plan

Draft Darebin Food Security Policy

7.8 PROPOSED FEE CHANGES AT DAREBIN RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE.

MINUTE NO. 118

AUTHOR: Executive Manager, Environmental Sustainability - Libby Hynes**MANAGER:** Acting Chief Executive Officer - Jan Black**BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS:** Nil**SUMMARY:**

Outlook Environmental has requested that gate fees for heavy inert and clean concrete waste types be changed to reflect the real costs of waste transfer and disposal. This report supports this proposal as it is consistent with Council objectives.

CONSULTATION:

Outlook Environmental

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT Council adopt the following charges to be imposed at the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre:

- Heavy Inert/Excavated Material/Rubble - \$105.00 per cubic metre (Inc GST); and
- Clean Concrete - \$45 per cubic metre (Inc GST).

CARRIED**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

In February 2006, Darebin City Council entered into a contract with Outlook Environmental for the development, management and operation of the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre (DRRC). The contract is for 15 years with an option of an additional 5 years at Council's discretion.

Under the contract Council is responsible for setting the gate charges, taking into account the charges proposed by Outlook Environmental who will receive the gate income. Generally these fees are set as part of the budget process and the contract allows Outlook Environmental to seek a review of gate charges outside the annual budget process if extenuating circumstances are present or to maintain the DRRC's commercial competitive integrity.

CORE ISSUES

Outlook Environmental has requested that gate fees for heavy inert and clean concrete waste types be changed as the current charging system works to the advantage of customers with large amounts of this type of waste (generally trade rather than residential customers) to use a cubic metre rate, with large volumes of heavy waste and a tonnage rate for large volumes of light weight, effectively exploiting a loop hole in the current charge system. Trades customers adjust their load quantities to suit the different charges schemes and this is causing financial loss for Outlook Environmental in the handling and disposal of waste.

Currently the quantity of waste that is less than 3 cubic metres is volume assessed and charged at cubic metre rate and the waste that is over 3 cubic metres is weighed and charged at tonnage rate. 1 cubic metre of heavy inert waste is equivalent to a tonne. Effectively trade customers are using a loop hole in the way fees are charged to dispose of heavy waste at a tonnage rate of \$45, rather than \$105.

The customers who bring large volumes of very light packing material such as polystyrene are demanding their waste be weighed, and paying a very minimal amount at the tonnage rate. Though these types of waste are light and weigh less, they occupy a large volume and take up space in the transfer bins costing Outlook Environmental more than the income received. Outlook Environmental requires the conditional weighing/volume assessment of materials to be removed, allowing the gate staff to choose the type of assessment appropriate (weighing or volume assessing) depending on the type of waste disposed. To rectify this error Outlook Environmental requests that gate charges be changed to reflect the real cost at correct conversion rate.

The new rates proposed by Outlook Environmental are detailed in the following table. The full list of current rates is attached in **Appendix A**. This charge will remove the 3 cubic metre limit on large loads current used as the determinant as to whether they are charged on volume or tonnage. These charges reflect that 1 cubic metre of heavy inert waste is equivalent to a tonne.

Type of Waste	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Heavy Inert/Excavated Material/Rubble	\$45.00 (Inc GST) Per cubic metre	\$105.00 (Inc GST) Per cubic metre
Clean Concrete	\$32.00 (Inc GST) Per cubic metre	\$45.00 (Inc. GST) Per cubic metre

Gate staff will determine whether a volume based or weight based assessment of waste be used for charging on presentation of the material at the gate.

It is recommended that these charges be adopted by Council as they are consistent with Council's financial and environmental aims.

The recent State Government announcement to increase waste landfill levies as at 1 July 2010 will be reflected in DRRC proposed fees considered in 2010/2011 budget considerations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

The DRRC operations are consistent with the Darebin Waste Management Strategy. The proposed pricing changes are consistent with waste management policy, reflecting the true costs of waste disposal.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The fee changes proposed affect trade customers bringing large amounts of waste, rather than residential customers and reflect the true costs of the waste transfer and disposal. Outlook Environmental currently provides twelve (12) traineeships for people with disabilities at the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre site and over 50 trainees will cycle through Outlook during the contract term providing meaningful community work. This training is conducted in partnership with Northern Support Services, a non profit community organisation for people with disabilities in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Under the contract Outlook Environmental receive gate fees to offset costs of materials sorting, transfer and/or disposal. Additionally Council currently pays an annual fee to Outlook Environmental for the site operation and management. Increasing fees will offset costs for Outlook Environmental. The DRRC gate fees will be reviewed as part of the Council budget process for Year 2010/2011.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Full review of gate charges as part of the 2010/2011 Budget process.
- Officers will continue to meet monthly with Outlook Environmental to discuss opportunities to reduce operational costs and to review their financial statements;

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Report to Council Meeting 16 June 2009 - Request for contract variation for CT0545 Development, Management and Operation of the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre.

Contract CT 0545 Development, Management and Operation of the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre.

7.9 COMMUNITY POWER - FINALISATION OF AGREEMENT**MINUTE NO. 119****AUTHOR:** Environmental Strategy Coordinator - Michelle Bennett**MANAGER:** Executive Manager, Environmental Sustainability - Libby Hynes**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** If discontinued the Community Power program will not require funds in future budgets.**SUMMARY:**

Since 2002 Community Power has been a partnership program led by Darebin Council that has aimed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the community by increasing the uptake of GreenPower and delivering energy efficiency programs. The program has gone through competitive tender processes to select the most attractive GreenPower offers and then work with the relevant Energy Retailer to promote these offers to the community.

In March 2009 Community Power extended its relationship with the incumbent Energy Retailer for an additional 12 month period in response to an attractive product proposal which would be supported by promotions from a Sustainability Fund grant. Unfortunately these products took much longer to develop than expected and were in the end only available via online sign up in November 2009. Take up since then has been extremely disappointing with only around 50 new households signing up.

Due to the low take up it is recommended that the Community Power program be discontinued. The Energy Retailer has advised that they do not want to extend the current agreement. Darebin's current partners the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd and Whitehorse City Council concur with this recommendation.

This report recommends that the Community Power program be discontinued, that Council communicates with all those residents registered on our Stay in Touch list and that Community Power funding be released for other programs and services. Residents who have signed up with a Community Power Energy Plan will not be affected by the finalisation of the program: their Energy Plan will remain valid.

If the proposed Sustainable Homes and Communities Program is funded Darebin will continue to promote the uptake of GreenPower and deliver energy efficiency seminars and education through this program.

CONSULTATION:

Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd, Whitehorse City Council.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT:

- (1) Council note this report and discontinue the Community Power program and branding.
- (2) A letter be sent to Whitehorse City Council, Moreland Energy Foundation and Moreland City Council to confirm this decision, thank them for their contribution and express Darebin's willingness to partner with these organisations in future environmental programs.
- (3) A letter be sent to the Energy Retailer to confirm the formal end of the agreement.
- (4) A letter be sent to all residents currently registered on Community Power's 'Stay in Touch' list to notify them of the discontinuation of the program and thank them for their support.
- (5) The Community Power website be updated with a discontinuation message, redirecting to other relevant sites and be maintained in this manner for a period of at least six months.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

The key aim of Community Power has been to reduce community greenhouse emissions through the uptake of GreenPower and provision of energy management programs. Switching to GreenPower is one of the simplest and most effective actions households and businesses can take to reduce their greenhouse emissions. GreenPower, which is accredited renewable electricity, costs more than buying conventional (greenhouse intensive) electricity and Community Power aimed to address this barrier by making more cost effective GreenPower options available by going through a competitive process to select and work with an energy retailer with good quality cost effective GreenPower product options. Council's endorsement of offers also aimed to build awareness and trust of GreenPower in the community and to make decision making easier for residents.

Community Power was the first program of its kind in Australia and has been operating since 2002. The history and development of Community Power is outlined in **Appendix A**.

Community Power is led by Darebin, currently in partnership with the Moreland Energy Foundation Ltd (MEFL) and the Cities of Whitehorse and Moreland. Following a competitive process Community Power commenced an agreement with the most recent Energy Retailer in February 2008. For the first year of this agreement pre-existing 'off the shelf' products were endorsed and promoted. The contract with the Energy Retailer was extended for a further year in early 2009 in response to attractive product proposals tailored specifically for Community Power. The Energy Retailer also indicated at the time their willingness to address other key concerns including service delivery issues and support with promotions.

The Community Power partners were also in receipt of a Sustainability Fund grant of \$125,000 to help promote the take up of Community Power Energy Plans via:

- Outreach workers to engage people in public places and present to community groups,
- A series of energy efficiency seminars, and
- 80 per cent contribution to the cost of the Community Power Officer's salary.

The energy efficiency outreach and seminar activities undertaken in 2009 funded through the Sustainability Fund grant were highly successful. Twelve casual outreach workers were engaged and trained to engage members in the community in conversations about climate change and how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the three municipalities. The table below summarises activities in Darebin.

Outreach activity	Quantity
Outreach stalls at community events, presentations to groups, fetes etc	22
Number of residents we engaged at these outreach stalls	820
Energy seminars – including one targeting Indian Community	3
Number of residents who attended energy seminars	135

Unfortunately due to the delay in development of the product offers and the timelines required for the grant acquittal the Community Power seminars and outreach work were able only to gather 'Stay in Touch' details for promoting the products at a later date rather than encouraging people to sign up straight away. Energy and cost savings to residents however were achieved via these activities.

CORE ISSUES

Over the term of the program, Community Power has been highly successful at reducing community greenhouse emissions through the uptake of GreenPower and through a range of energy efficiency programs and incentives. It has attracted significant external funding, achieved recognition through National Award programs and has demonstrated ongoing innovation. The program and partnership (particularly between Darebin and the Moreland Energy Foundation since Community Power was first established in 2002) has been one of the longest running community environmental programs in the local government sector. The achievements of Community Power are summarised in **Appendix B**. Throughout the history of the program more than 2000 households have signed up to a Community Power Energy Plan or participated in an energy efficiency program, with a potentially much higher number influenced to sign up to other GreenPower offers.

Current Status

Launching of the new Community Power Energy Plans was significantly delayed in 2009 due to longer than expected product development and the time involved to make the corrections and modifications that Community Power required of the on-line sign up web pages. The Energy Plans became available in November 2009 and a Community Power brochure was letter box dropped across all three municipalities. In Darebin this was supported by a media release, advertisements in the local newspaper, an article in Darebin News, Sustainability News and through email networks and environmental forums.

Data provided by the Energy Retailer indicates that sign-ups have been extremely disappointing however, with only around 50 new households signing up across the three municipalities around 25 of which are from Darebin.

The total number of residents currently signed up to a Community Power Energy Plan is around 700¹ households (with approximately half of these in Darebin).

The poor sign-up result is attributed to the following issues and barriers:

- **On-line sign up.** This is clearly a barrier for those that are not internet literate or do not have internet access. The time and detail involved in signing up to a new energy plan over the internet is likely to be a barrier for many internet literate people also. Previous experience and survey responses indicate that sign up needs to be as simple and easy as possible ie. over the phone - too much written information and small print terms and conditions strongly dissuade people. Community Power consistently raised the need for other sign up options but the Energy Retailer was unable to accommodate these requests.
- **Complexity of the Product Offers.** The product offers are structured with a rebate reward after a twelve month period. This makes the overall price comparison (which for energy plans is already complex) more complicated and difficult to understand. With three different levels of GreenPower (although Community Power focussed on promoting two), the option to have gas or not and then the option to pay more for Green Gas plus the differing rebates for dual or single fuel made the offer a difficult proposition to communicate simply and clearly. Our experience also indicates that presenting too many options creates a barrier to action.
- **Promotional Challenges.** Reaching and convincing people to make a switch to their energy contract is a challenging task and Community Power competes with other products making use of television and door knocking to achieve sign ups. Many people are reluctant to change energy retailers if they are not experiencing problems. Community Power's best sign up results have been achieved when we have been able to implement broad scale promotions eg. letter box drops and advertisements concurrently with face-to-face promotions via presentations at community groups and forums, outreach workers in public places etc. Due to the delay in product development and timeframe requirements to implement the latest Sustainability Fund grant, outreach work was completed in the first half of 2009 prior to the launch of the products and broad scale promotions.
- **Contextual Issues.** In 2009 the proposed treatment of GreenPower under the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme raised concerns that purchasing GreenPower would no longer reduce Australia's overall greenhouse emissions. This may have contributed to doubt and uncertainty in the community regarding the benefits of GreenPower. There has also been increased uptake of photovoltaic systems (solar panels for electricity) of late largely due to the Australian Government's *Solar Homes and Communities* rebate program (discontinued in June 2009). It is currently difficult to both purchase GreenPower and receive the solar feed in tariff as energy retailers are not commonly combining these options for consumers. Unfortunately it has not been possible through Community Power Energy Plans.

Community Power has raised all of these issues over the last 12 - 18 months. The Energy Retailer was not able to assist in meeting our needs in addressing any of these points.

The current agreement with the Energy Retailer expired on 16 March 2010. On 11 March 2010 Darebin received a letter from the Energy Retailer advising that they do not wish to seek an extension of the agreement beyond March 2010.

¹ Data received re sign ups is not always consistent. There are 780 households (371 from Darebin) registered on Community Power's 'Stay in Touch' list but not all of these are necessarily signed up to a Community Power Energy Plan as registrations were also gathered during outreach activities.

The current status and recommendation for discontinuation of the program has been discussed with officers of MEFL and Whitehorse City Council who accept this recommendation. Darebin as the lead Council is the signatory to the agreement with the Energy Retailer.

Households who have signed up to a Community Power Energy Plan are not directly affected if the program is discontinued. Their Energy Plan is an agreement between the Energy Retailer and the household and remains valid. The only change for these households is that they will no longer receive the Community Power newsletter, be invited to Community Power seminars and will no longer have access to telephone advice from the Community Power Project Officer.

The positive elements of the Community Power program can be successfully integrated into the proposed Sustainable Homes and Communities program and other current initiatives. For example, energy efficiency seminars and distribution of energy efficiency incentives can take place through the Sustainable Homes and Communities program. Current subscribers to the Community Power newsletter will be encouraged to subscribe to Sustainability News and we will continue to promote the uptake of GreenPower through both of these channels.

Conclusions

Given the very poor take up of Community Power Energy Plans in the last 12 months and the lack of potential to address identified issues and barriers it is recommended that:

- Darebin confirm with the Energy Retailer the formal end of the agreement
- The Community Power program and branding be discontinued.
- Darebin write to Whitehorse City Council, Moreland Energy Foundation and Moreland City Council to confirm this decision, thank them for their contribution and express our willingness to partner with these organisations in future environmental programs.
- All residents currently registered on Community Power's 'Stay in Touch' list be advised of the discontinuation of the program and be thanked for their support. This letter confirms that their Energy Plan remain current and valid and will continue as per the Terms and Conditions of that Plan. This letter has been previously circulated to Council with briefing papers.
- The Community Power website be updated with a discontinuation message, redirecting to other sites and be maintained in this manner for a period of at least six months.
- Officers to present key findings and advocacy issues regarding the electricity market to the Sustainability Accord.
- If the proposed Sustainable Homes and Communities program is funded in 2010/2011 this will be our key platform for continuing energy efficiency seminars and education across the Darebin community and promoting the uptake of GreenPower.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**Environmental Sustainability**

Purchasing GreenPower remains one of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As indicated above, Darebin will continue to promote the uptake of GreenPower, but results achieved in the last 12 months indicate that the Community Power program is no longer a cost effective way to do this. GreenPower promotions will be integrated in existing programs and activities, particularly the new Sustainable Homes and Communities program pending the 2010/2011 budget considerations.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

As per above, current Community Power customers will be advised of the discontinuation of the program. This has no bearing on their own Energy Plans which are between the resident and the Energy Retailer.

While awareness and trust of the GreenPower program is growing over time, it has been traditionally difficult to communicate the details of accredited GreenPower and the Community Power offers to well educated residents whose first language is English. The challenge to communicate effectively with Darebin's diverse communities was significant.

Other

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The projected annual program funding for Community Power of \$32,000 would be released for other projects or savings with the discontinuation of the program.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Darebin will write to the Energy Retailer confirming the finalisation of the Community Power agreement.

A letter be sent to residents on the Community Power 'Stay in Touch' list (as per draft previously circulated to Council with briefing papers)

Darebin will write to the Community Power partners informing them of the Darebin Council Resolution.

Continue to promote the uptake of GreenPower as a very simple and effective way for households and businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Continue to advocate for GreenPower to be additional to the proposed 5% Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Cap.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Community Power Agreement.

Council Report 21 December 2009 regarding the proposed Sustainable Homes and Communities program

7.10 VEHICLE CROSSING POLICY

MINUTE NO. 120

AUTHOR: Senior Transport Planner - Nigel Turner**MANAGER:** Manager Major Projects and Transport - Nick Mazzarella**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Within Current Budgets**SUMMARY:**

Council has delegated responsibility for managing local roads under the *Local Government Act 1989*. One aspect of this responsibility is managing vehicle crossings to private property.

A “Vehicle Crossing Policy” has been developed to address:

- Consistency in the application of vehicle crossing standards; and
- Issues associated with the proliferation of vehicle crossings, identified at state and local level in a variety of strategic planning documents.

This policy has been developed using guidance from the Municipal Planning Scheme, existing Council Policies, and relevant Australian Standards.

The proposed Policy sets 3 key requirements for vehicle crossing applications:

1. No more than one single-width vehicle crossing should be provided for each dwelling fronting a street. (Planning Scheme Clause 55.03-9)
2. Provide vehicular access from a rear laneway if available. (Darebin Urban Character Policy - General Requirement)
3. Vehicle crossings should not be permitted where there is no net gain in the parking supply.

Adopting this Vehicle Crossing Policy will ensure a high level of consistency in vehicle crossing decision making across Council.

CONSULTATION:

Extensive internal consultation has been undertaken in the development of this Policy.

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) Council adopt the *City of Darebin Crossing Policy* attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
- (2) Council officers apply the standards set in this Policy across all Council Departments.

MOTION

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

THAT the Recommendation be adopted.

WITH LEAVE OF THE MAYOR, CR. FONTANA, THE MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY THE MOVER AND SECONDER IN FAVOUR OF THE FOLLOWING FURTHER MOTION.

FURTHER MOTION

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

THAT consideration of the matter be deferred.

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT consideration of the matter be deferred.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

To date, Council has administered applications for vehicle crossing permits on an 'ad-hoc' basis, relying on the priorities and abilities of the individual officers to approve or reject vehicle crossing applications appropriately. Unfortunately, this has led to the inconsistent application of vehicle crossing standards within Council and the unconsidered proliferation of vehicle crossings throughout the municipality.

Although there are existing strategy and policy documents that provide guidance for the appropriate management of vehicle crossings (Melbourne 2030, The Darebin Transport Strategy, Planning Scheme, International Charter for Walking, Darebin Cycle Strategy, Neighbourhood Character Policy, Tree Retention Policy, Australian Standards, VicRoads Guidance), there is no consolidated and consistent "Policy" available to all areas of Council. Relevant Council branches (Transport Management and Planning, Statutory Planning, Strategic Planning, Building Services, Local Laws, City Services) have requested a consolidated and consistent "Vehicle Crossing Policy" to be developed in order to address the issue of consistency in the application of vehicle crossing standards.

Internal consultation with relevant Council service groups indicates that there is a good level of support for this document. This policy aims to encourage the consistent application of vehicle crossing standards and minimise the escalation of complaints.

CORE ISSUES

The proposed Policy is based on 4 key principles:

Principle 1. Protection of Public Assets

Wherever Council grants a permit for a vehicle crossing, it is also accepting the loss of at least one on-street parking space. On-street parking, particularly in the vicinity of activity centres, community amenities, and other activity nodes is a valuable public asset which contributes to the character and vitality of local areas through the provision of parking for a variety of users, including residents, visitors, shoppers, etc. As such, where the provision of a vehicle crossing results in the loss of an equal or greater number of on-street parking spaces, this should be viewed as the privatisation of a valuable public asset and a net loss to the community.

Principle 2. Road Safety

The retention of on-street parking through the minimisation of vehicle crossings promotes reduced vehicle speeds and traffic volumes by creating “side-friction”. This means that drivers are forced to slow down to facilitate manoeuvring around parked vehicles and to give way to oncoming vehicles. As a result, drivers choose alternative, more strategic routes, where higher speeds are more appropriate. Reducing vehicle speeds and traffic volumes leads to increased safety and amenity for residents and road users.

Principle 3. Urban Amenity

The number of vehicle crossings on a street can have a significant impact upon the distinctiveness of a street and the character of a locality. Minimising the paved area within nature strips and private gardens provides more attractive streetscapes and greater opportunities for street planting. This in turn, impacts on the overall pedestrian experience and the choice to walk to local destinations or to public transport.

Principle 4. Sustainability

Due to the heat island effect, cities are often hotter than surrounding undeveloped land. These temperature increases exacerbate the impacts of climate change and decrease amenity for residents. The percentage of front gardens and nature strip covered by non-permeable surfaces (vehicle crossings) is inversely proportionate to the amount of storm-water that can be absorbed locally before running-off in to drainage systems and waterways. Particularly where drainage systems are already nearing capacity, increased levels of storm-water run-off will increase the likelihood of localised flash-flooding.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

Encouraging walking and cycling by improving road safety, perceptions of road safety, and improving urban amenity will result in the greater uptake of these more sustainable modes of transport. This will help to reduce the impact that residents have on the environment as a result of their transport choices. Minimising the amount of hard surfacing in nature strips and front garden areas will also result in less storm-water run-off and minimise each property's contribution to the urban heat island affect.

Social Inclusion and Diversity

Encouraging walking and cycling by improving road safety, perceptions of road safety, and improving urban amenity will result in the greater uptake of these more sustainable modes of transport. Because these residents travel at slower speeds and are not enclosed within a vehicle, this will result in more socialising and less social isolation within communities.

Other

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with the development of information packs and mail-outs to planning consultants, architects, and private building surveyors will be accommodated within current budget allocations.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Statutory Planning

- Apply Vehicle Crossing Policy to actual or implied vehicle crossing locations and layouts for new development that requires a Planning Permit.
- Incorporate standard condition/note in Planning Permits to reiterate the importance of having a Vehicle Crossing Permit before commencing any works that may require vehicular access to the property.
- Send annual vehicle crossing information packs to planning consultants and architects operating in Darebin.

Strategic Planning

- Amend the Municipal Strategic Statement to reference Council's Vehicle Crossing Policy. Amend the Planning Scheme as appropriate.

Building Services

- Apply Vehicle Crossing Policy to actual or implied vehicle crossing locations and layouts for new development that requires a Building Permit.
- Send annual vehicle crossing information packs to private building surveyors (as listed in the Building Commission Register).

Local Laws

- Amended Asset Protection Permits to reiterate the importance of having a Vehicle Crossing Permit before commencing any works that may require vehicular access to the property.

City Works (Depot)

- Apply Vehicle Crossing Policy to all new vehicle crossing applications or changes to existing vehicle crossing applications.
- Where applications affect Council assets and/or infrastructure, refer applicant to the relevant Council departments.
- Formal referral of contentious applications to the Transport Management and Planning Branch.

Transport Management and Planning

- Review all internal processes and documents relating to the management of vehicle crossings.
- Provide referral comments to Statutory Planning, consistent with the requirements of the Vehicle Crossing Policy.
- Provide referral comments to Building Services, consistent with the requirements of the Vehicle Crossing Policy.
- Provide annually updated vehicle crossing information to Statutory Planning and Building Services.
- Review, on request, the decisions of City Works.
- Review the Vehicle Crossing Policy in 5 years time or as needed.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Melbourne 2030
Darebin Transport Strategy, 2008
Darebin Planning Scheme
International Charter for Walking, 2008
Darebin Cycle Strategy, 2005
Neighbourhood Character Study, 2007
Tree Retention Policy, 2008
Australian Standards
VicRoads, Traffic Engineering Manuals

Cr. Chiang disclosed a conflict of interest in this matter classifying the type of interest as a direct interest and describing the nature of the interest as that he operates a business from a nearby property which could be affected by the proposal. He left the meeting prior to consideration of the matter – 8.32pm.

7.11 DISABLED PARKING BAY RELOCATION - 806 HIGH STREET THORNBURY

MINUTE NO. 121

AUTHOR: Senior Transport Planner – Nigel Turner

MANAGER: Manager Major Projects and Transport – Nick Mazzarella

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: \$100,000 per year 2010/2011 to 2012/2013.

SUMMARY:

This matter was deferred by Council at its previous meeting on 15 March 2010. Following discussions, the report has been updated.

In March 2009, Council’s Local Laws Unit, on advice from the Transport Management and Planning Branch, decided not to permit a “Goods on Footpath Permit” for tables and chairs at the front of 806 High Street, Thornbury in order to retain current levels of access to the Disabled Parking Bay at the front of this property. Subsequently, the applicant requested that Council consider the relocation of this Disabled Parking Bay.

Council’s Transport Engineer met with the applicant on 1 July 2009 and highlighted that this was unlikely to happen in the short term, but that it might be possible to relocate the Disabled Parking Bay to Pender Street (nearest side street) as part of an upcoming program of works to bring all Disabled Parking Bays up to standard in line with the Disability Discrimination Act.

This program of works was the subject of a Council Report considered by Council on 30 November 2009.

CONSULTATION:

Council’s Transport Engineer met with the applicant to consider how a “Goods on Footpath” permit could be facilitated for 806 High Street, Thornbury on 1 July 2009.

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:**

- (1) Council receive and note this report.
- (2) Council consider a 2010-2011 Capital Works Program funding submission for a program of works to upgrade Disabled Parking Bays in Activity Centres and at Education Facilities as a priority over the next 3 years. The relocation of this Disabled Parking Bay at 806 High Street Thornbury can be considered in the first stage of the program.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. D. Asmar
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the Disabled Parking Bay in front of 806 High Street Thornbury be relocated as soon as possible to the corner of High Street and Pender Street Thornbury.

CARRIED

REPORT**BACKGROUND**

In March 2009, Council's Local Laws Unit, on advice from the Transport Management and Planning Branch, decided not to permit a "Goods on Footpath Permit" for tables and chairs at the front of 806 High Street, Thornbury in order to retain current levels of access to the Disabled Parking Bay at the front of this property. Subsequently, the applicant requested that Council consider the relocation of this Disabled Parking Bay.

On 1 July 2009, Council's Transport Engineer met with the applicant to consider how a "Goods on Footpath" permit could be facilitated for 806 High Street, Thornbury.

The following discussion points were raised at this meeting:

- Council's Transport Engineer suggested the possibility of restricting the number and location of tables and chairs permitted at the front of this property in order to continue to facilitate loading and unloading from the Disabled Parking Bay located in front of 806 High Street.
- Council officers also highlighted the possibility of relocating the Disabled Parking Bay to Pender Street (nearest side street) as part of a possible upcoming program of works to bring all Disabled Parking Bays up to standard in line with the Disability Discrimination Act. This program of works was the subject of a Council Report considered by Council on the 30 November 2009. (See below).

The suggested partial "Goods on Footpath Permit" solution was not supported by Local Laws, who currently do not release "Goods On Footpath" permits for tables and chairs for partial property frontages.

At Council's meeting on 1 February 2010, the following 'General Business' item was raised:

“That officers provide an update on the relocation of the disabled parking bay in front of 804-806 High Street, Thornbury, to enable the traders to place tables and chairs on the footpath.”

CORE ISSUES

Council is committed under its current *Disability Access and Inclusion Policy 2009* and associated *Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2009 - 2013* to increase access to the built environment, services, and programs for people with a disability. The provision of Disabled Parking Bays is one way in which Council provides access opportunities for people with a disability in Darebin.

As per the report submitted to Council on 30 November, 2009, only 42 of the 155 Council managed Disabled Parking Bays in the municipality are currently compliant according to The *Australian Standards for Access and Mobility (AS1428.1-2001, AS1428.2-1992 and AS1428.3-1992)*; *Parking Facilities – On-Street Parking (AS2890.5-1993)* and *Off-Street Parking for People with Disabilities (AS2890.6 - 2009)*.

Upgrading the remaining 113 non-compliant Disabled Parking Bays has been estimated at approximately \$1,000,000 and will take several years to complete.

In order for all Council managed Disabled Parking Bays to be upgraded within this timeframe, Council would need to allocate capital funds for these works in the forward budget cycles. Council officers will then prioritise the works required for upgrading the 113 Disabled Parking Bays according to: use type (school parking), use levels (activity centres) and cost of works. The nature of the relocation of the Disabled Parking Bay at 806 High Street, Thornbury can be considered in the first stage of the prioritisation of Disabled Parking Bay compliance works.

The owner of the business at 806 High Street Thornbury was issued a permit under the Footpath Activities Policy for an A-board expiring at the end of the current financial year. This permit is no longer valid due to a change in business name. Council will request that the owner of the business renews the permit with up-to-date public liability insurance showing the new business name.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

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

Social Inclusion and Diversity

The disabled parking bay is important for all abilities access and is needed to be upgraded to meet standards. As part of the upgrade, its relocation to a nearby side street would be acceptable.

Other

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Future capital budget application to focus on upgrading Disabled Parking Bays in Activity Centres and Education Facilities.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Council officers will develop a program of works and a funding submission will be referred to the 2010-2011 Capital Works Program to upgrade Disabled Parking Bays in Activity Centres and at Education Facilities as a priority over the next 3 years. The relocation of this Disabled Parking Bay at 806 High Street Thornbury can be considered in the first stage of the program.

The Disabled Parking Bay in question will be maintained (signs and line marking) as part of Council's annual maintenance programmes until funding becomes available to relocate it into Pender Street. The line marking in this area was recently renewed under an annual maintenance programme.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Disabled Parking Bays Council Report – 30 November, 2009
- Report to Council – 15 March 2010
- Disability Policy 2009
- Disability Access and Inclusion Policy 2009-2013
- Darebin Transport Strategy

Cr. Tsitas left the meeting prior to discussion of the above item – 8.32pm.

Cr. Chiang returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above item – 8.34pm.

**7.12 PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE OF RIGHT OF WAY (ROAD)
AND SUBDIVISION AND SALE OF RESERVE ADJOINING 41
SPRING STREET, PRESTON**

MINUTE NO. 122

AUTHOR: Property Officer – Kristie Berry

MANAGER: Director Infrastructure – Geoff Glynn

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: All of Council’s reasonable legal, administrative, advertising and ancillary costs in pursuing this proposal will be met by the applicant, the owner of 41 Spring Street, Preston.

SUMMARY:

This proposal recommends that Council finalise the statutory procedures for the following:

- 1) Discontinuance and sale of part of the 3.05m wide road; and
- 2) Sale of the 0.28m wide Council - owned reserve strip adjoining 41 Spring Street, Preston.

Statutory procedures under the Local Government Act 1989 (“the Act”) have been completed and this report recommends that the road be discontinued and sold together with the land from the Council owned reserve, by private treaty.

CONSULTATION:

Macquarie Lawyers and Strategists
Owner of the adjoining property at 41 Spring Street and the owners consultants
Statutory Authorities and Council Departments

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan

SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT Council:

- (1) Having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue part of the 3.05m wide road the road adjoining the rear of 41 Spring Street, Preston, shown cross-hatched on the plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report, and having received no submissions in respect of this proposal under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989:
 - (a) Discontinues the road in accordance with section 206 and Schedule 10, Clause 3 of the Local Government Act 1989;
 - (b) Directs that a notice concerning the discontinuance of the road be published in the Victoria Government Gazette;

- (c) Directs that the discontinuance and sale of the road will not affect any right, power or interest held by Yarra Valley Water Limited and the City of Darebin in the road in connection with any sewers, drains or pipes under the control of those Authorities in or near the road;
 - (d) Authorises the Director Infrastructure to finalise the sale of the land from the road to the owner of the adjoining property at 41 Spring Street, Preston, by private treaty in accordance with Council's resolution of 16 November, 2009; and
 - (e) Signs and seals all documents relating to the sale of the land from the discontinued road to the owner of 41 Spring Street, Preston.
- (2) Having given public notice of a proposal to sell part of the 0.28m wide Council owned reserve adjoining the side of 41 Spring Street, Preston, shown hatched on the plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report and having received no submissions in respect of this proposal under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989:
- (a) Sells the land from the reserve in accordance with section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989;
 - (b) Authorises the Director Infrastructure to finalise the sale of the land from the reserve to the owner of the adjoining property at 41 Spring Street, Preston, by private treaty in accordance with Council's resolution of 16 November, 2009; and;
 - (c) Signs and seals all documents relating to the sale of any land from the reserve to the owner of 41 Spring Street, Preston.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Council had received a request from the owner of 41 Spring Street, Preston, for the discontinuance and sale of a section of the road, shown cross-hatched, and the Council owned reserve, shown hatched, respectively on the plan attached as **Appendix A**, in conjunction with a proposed unit development at the property.

The owner of 41 Spring Street previously acquired the land from the discontinued roads at the side and rear of the property contained within Certificates of Title Vol. 9547 Fol. 267 and Vol. 10591 Fol. 734, as depicted on the plan attached as **Appendix A**.

The parcels of land from the previously discontinued roads are physically enclosed within the boundary of 41 Spring Street, as are the section of road and reserve proposed to be discontinued as part of this proposal. The owner of 41 Spring Street wishes to acquire these further sections of road and reserve in order to consolidate the titles and subdivide the land as part of a unit development at the property.

The subdivision and sale of the reserve was not dealt with for some unknown reason when the road at the side of the property was discontinued and sold by the former City of Preston in 1983. At present the reserve land legally separates the title for the land from the former road and the parent property at 41 Spring Street. There is no note on title or documentation on Council records to indicate a reason for this anomaly.

The road at the rear of the property is from a different subdivision from that of the road discontinued in 1983 at the side of the property. Hence when Council discontinued the road at the rear of the properties in Spring Street and Leonard Street, Preston in 2001 it did not deal with the small section of road enclosed within the north-west corner of 41 Spring Street.

Council, at its meeting held 16 November 2009, approved a departure from policy guidelines with regard to the sale of land shown hatched on the plan attached as **Appendix A**. At the same meeting Council also directed that the statutory procedures for the proposed discontinuance and sale of part of the 3.05m wide road adjoining the rear, and the removal of the reserve status, subdivision and sale of the 0.28m wide Council owned reserve strip be commenced.

CORE ISSUES

Public notice of the proposal to discontinue and sell the road and to sell part of the land from the Council owned reserve was given in The Age and Preston Leader newspapers on Wednesday, 23 December 2009.

Owners and occupiers of all of the adjoining properties were also notified in writing and were advised that submissions, in writing, would be considered by Council pursuant to the provisions of section 223 of the Act.

No submissions in regard to this proposal have been received.

Service Authorities/Council Departments

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

Yarra Valley Water has a sewer and Council has a drain within the section of road proposed to be discontinued and require an easement to be saved over the land if the road is discontinued.

Council also has a drain in part of the reserve and requires that an easement be saved as par of the subdivision of the reserve.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

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

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There are no factors in this report which impact upon social inclusion and diversity.

Other

This report has been prepared having regard to the implications of the previous discontinuances and Council's "Right of way and road closure policy".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with Council resolution 16 November 2009, the owner of 41 Spring Street, Preston will meet all of Council's reasonable legal, administrative, advertising and ancillary costs in pursuing this proposal.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Arrange for a notice to be published in the Victoria Government Gazette about the road discontinuance and the land from both the road and Council owned reserve to be sold and transferred to the owner of 41 Spring Street, Preston.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appendix A showing the section of road and reserve proposed to be discontinued and sold is enclosed.

7.13 RIGHT OF WAY (ROAD) DISCONTINUANCE ADJOINING 10 AND 12 KENNEDY STREET AND 10 AND 12 RAYMENT STREET, FAIRFIELD

MINUTE NO. 123

AUTHOR: Property Officer – Kristie Berry

MANAGER: Director Infrastructure – Geoff Glynn

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Net income from the sale of the land during 2009/2010 is estimated at \$2,015.

SUMMARY:

This report recommends that Council discontinue the right of way (road) adjoining 10 and 12 Kennedy Street and 10 and 12 Rayment Street, Fairfield.

Statutory procedures under the Local Government Act 1989 have been completed and this report recommends that the road be discontinued and sold by private treaty.

CONSULTATION:

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan

SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT Council, having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the road adjoining 10 and 12 Kennedy Street and 10 and 12 Rayment Street, Fairfield, shown hatched and cross-hatched on the plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report, and having received no submissions in respect of this proposal under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989:

- (1) Discontinues the road in accordance with section 206 and Schedule 10, Clause 3 of the Local Government Act 1989;
- (2) Directs that a notice be published in the Victoria Government Gazette;
- (3) Directs that the land from the road be sold by private treaty to the owners of the abutting properties in accordance with Council's resolution of 21 December 2009;

- (4) Directs that the discontinuance and sale will not affect any right, power or interest held by the Darebin City Council in the section of road shown cross-hatched on **Appendix A** in connection with any sewers, drains, or pipes under the control of that authority in or near the road; and
- (5) Digns and seals all documents relating to the sale of the land from the discontinued road to the owners of the adjoining properties.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Council received a request from the owner of 12 Kennedy Street, Fairfield, for the discontinuance and sale of the road adjoining her property.

The road concerned is shown hatched and cross-hatched on **Appendix A**.

Inspection has confirmed that the land from the majority of the road is presently enclosed within 12 Kennedy Street and is used as part of the driveway to that property. It is understood that this situation has prevailed since 1962.

A small section of the road is also enclosed within the rear of 12 Rayment Street.

Council, at its meeting on 21 December 2009, approved a departure from policy guidelines with regard to the sale of land to the owner of 12 Kennedy Street, Fairfield shown hatched on **Appendix A**. At the same meeting Council also directed that the statutory procedures for the proposed discontinuance and sale of the 2.44m wide right of way (road) adjoining 10 and 12 Kennedy Street and 10 and 12 Rayment Street, Fairfield be commenced.

CORE ISSUES

Public notice of the proposal was given in The Age, Northcote Leader and Preston Leader newspapers on Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Owners and occupiers of all of the adjoining properties were also notified in writing and were advised that submissions, in writing, would be considered by Council pursuant to the provisions of section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

No submissions in regard to this proposal have been received.

Service Authorities/Council Departments

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

Council has a drain within the section of road at the rear of 12 Rayment Street and will require an easement to be saved over this part of the land if the road is discontinued.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS**Environmental Sustainability**

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

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There are no factors in this report which impact upon social inclusion and diversity.

Other

This report has been prepared having regard to the implications of the previous discontinuances and Council's "Right of way and road closure policy".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Excluding the costs associated with discontinuing and selling the road, the net income during 2009/2010 is estimated at \$2,105.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Arrange for a notice to be published in the Victoria Government Gazette and the land to be sold and transferred to the owners of 12 Kennedy Street and 12 Rayment Street, Fairfield.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appendix A showing the road proposed to be discontinued and sold is enclosed.

7.14 RIGHT OF WAY (ROAD) DISCONTINUANCE REAR 2 TO 22 MASSEY AVENUE AND 5 TO 21 LAWLEY STREET AND ADJOINING 17 AND 19 LAWLEY STREET AND 124 BROADHURST AVENUE, RESERVOIR

MINUTE NO. 124

AUTHOR: Property Officer – Kristie Berry

MANAGER: Director Infrastructure – Geoff Glynn

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Net income from this project during 2009/2010 is estimated at \$220

SUMMARY:

This report recommends that Council discontinue the section of right of way (road) at the rear of 2 to 22 Massey Avenue and 5 to 21 Lawley Street and adjoining 17 and 19 Lawley Street and 124 Broadhurst Avenue, Reservoir, and sell the land from the road to the owners of the adjoining properties by private treaty.

Statutory procedures under the Local Government Act 1989 have been completed and this report recommends that the road be discontinued and sold by private treaty.

CONSULTATION:

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan

SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT Council, having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the road at the rear of 2 to 22 Massey Avenue and 5 to 21 Lawley Street and adjoining 17 and 19 Lawley Street and 124 Broadhurst Avenue, Reservoir, shown hatched on the plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report, and having received no submissions in respect of this proposal under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989:

- (1) Discontinues the road in accordance with section 206 and Schedule 10, Clause 3 of the Local Government Act 1989;
- (2) Directs that a notice be published in the Victoria Government Gazette;
- (3) Directs that the land from the road be sold by private treaty to the owners of the adjoining properties in accordance with Council policy guidelines;

- (4) Directs that the discontinuance and sale will not affect any right, power or interest held by Yarra Valley Water Limited and the City of Darebin, in the road in connection with any sewers, drains or pipes under the control of those authorities in or near the road; and
- (5) Signs and seals all documents relating to the sale of any land from the discontinued road to the owners of the adjoining properties.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

As part of Council's pro-active road discontinuance program Council's consultants had been requested to investigate the feasibility of discontinuing and selling the abovementioned section of road shown hatched on **Appendix A**.

A site inspection confirmed that the road had not been constructed and was fully enclosed within the adjoining properties. Occupation had prevailed for many years. The road to the north of the section detailed in this report has previously been discontinued and sold.

A survey of owners of the adjoining properties has been conducted and sufficient support for the proposed discontinuance and sale was forthcoming. Although only two owners have agreed to acquire the land at this juncture, further negotiations with other owners are on-going and Council should realise further income from sales in the future.

On 19 December 2009, Council's Acting Manager Asset Strategy, acting under delegated authority, directed that the statutory procedures for the discontinuance and sale of the road be commenced.

CORE ISSUES

Public notice of the proposal was given in The Age and Preston and Northcote Leader newspapers on Wednesday 27 January 2010.

Owners and occupiers of all of the adjoining properties were also notified in writing and were advised that submissions, in writing, would be considered by Council pursuant to the provisions of section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

No submissions in regard to this proposal have been received.

Service Authorities/Council Departments

Council Departments and all necessary Service Authorities have also been consulted in respect to the proposal and no objections have been received. Yarra Valley Water Limited has a sewer within the road and will require an easement to be saved over the land if the road is discontinued.

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

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

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

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There are no factors in this report which impact upon social inclusion and diversity.

Other

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

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Excluding the costs associated with discontinuing and selling the road, the net income for this project in the immediate future is estimated at \$220 during 2009/2010.

It would be expected that in future, adjoining owners may wish to acquire the land from the discontinued right of way.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Arrange for a notice to be published in the Victoria Government Gazette and the land to be sold and transferred to the owners of the adjoining properties in accordance with Council policy guidelines.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appendix A showing the section of road proposed to be discontinued and sold is enclosed.

7.15 RIGHT OF WAY (ROAD) DISCONTINUANCE ADJOINING 28 TO 42 GLOUCESTER STREET AND 27 TO 41 PINE STREET, RESERVOIR

MINUTE NO. 125

AUTHOR: Property Officer – Kristie Berry

MANAGER: Director Infrastructure – Geoff Glynn

BUDGET

IMPLICATIONS: Net income from this project during 2009/2010 is estimated at \$5,930

SUMMARY:

This report recommends that Council discontinue the 3.05m wide section of right of way (road) adjoining 28 to 42 Gloucester Street and 27 to 41 Pine Street, Reservoir, and sell the land from the road to the owners of the adjoining properties by private treaty.

Statutory procedures under the Local Government Act 1989 have been completed and this report recommends that the road be discontinued and sold by private treaty.

CONSULTATION:

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT Council, having given public notice of a proposal to discontinue the road adjoining 28 to 42 Gloucester Street and 27 to 41 Pine Street, Reservoir, shown hatched on the plan attached as **Appendix A** to this report, and having received no submissions in respect of this proposal under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989:

- (1) Discontinues the road in accordance with section 206 and Schedule 10, Clause 3 of the Local Government Act 1989;
- (2) Directs that a notice be published in the Victoria Government Gazette;
- (3) Authorises the Director Infrastructure to finalise the sale of the parcel of land from the road, shown as Lot 2 on the plan attached as **Appendix B** to the owner of 39 Pine Street, Reservoir, in accordance with Council's resolution of 30 November, 2009.

- (4) Directs that the land from the road be sold by private treaty to the owners of the other adjoining properties in accordance with Council policy guidelines;
- (5) Directs that the discontinuance and sale will not affect any right, power or interest held by Yarra Valley Water Limited, in the road in connection with any sewers, drains or pipes under the control of that Authority in or near the road; and
- (6) Signs and seals all documents relating to the sale of any land from the discontinued road to the owners of the adjoining properties.

CARRIED

REPORT

BACKGROUND

As part of its Pro-active Road Discontinuance Program, Council requested its consultants to investigate the feasibility of discontinuing and selling the section of road shown hatched on **Appendix A**.

Inspection has confirmed that the road is unconstructed and has been enclosed within the adjoining properties. Discussions with owners revealed that the land has been enclosed for many years (in some cases over 50 years) and was done with the concurrence of the then City of Preston.

A survey of owners of the adjoining properties has been conducted and sufficient support for the proposed discontinuance and sale has been forthcoming.

Council, at its meeting held 30 November 2009, approved a departure from policy guidelines with regard to the sale of land (Being Lot 2 on **Appendix B**). At the same meeting Council also directed that the statutory procedures for the proposed discontinuance and sale of the road adjoining 28 to 42 Gloucester Street and 27 to 41 Pine Street, Reservoir, be commenced.

CORE ISSUES

Public notice of the proposal was given in The Age and Preston Leader newspapers on Wednesday, 23 December 2009.

Owners and occupiers of all of the adjoining properties were also notified in writing and were advised that submissions, in writing, would be considered by Council pursuant to the provisions of section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

No submissions in regard to this proposal have been received.

Service Authorities/Council Departments

Council Departments and all necessary Service Authorities have also been consulted in respect to the proposal and no objections have been received. Yarra Valley Water Ltd has a sewer within part of the road and will require an easement to be saved over part of the land if the road is discontinued.

Whilst Council does not have any assets in the road at present it will require an easement for drainage purposes to be created on all titles issued for the land when sold.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

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

Social Inclusion and Diversity

There are no factors in this report which impact upon social inclusion and diversity.

Other

This report is in accordance with/has been prepared having regard to Council's "Right of way and road closure policy".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Following consultation with all adjoining owners, three owners have agreed in principle to purchase land. The remaining parcels of land will not be sold at this stage, however Council will realise further income from future sales of the remaining parcels of land.

Excluding the costs associated with discontinuing and selling the road, net income during 2009/2010 from this project is estimated at \$5,030.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Arrange for a notice to be published in the Victoria Government Gazette and the land to be sold and transferred to the owner of 39 Pine Street Reservoir (Lot 2 on the plan attached as **Appendix B**), and to the owners of the other adjoining properties by private treaty, in accordance with Council policy guidelines.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Appendix A showing the section of road proposed to be discontinued and sold is enclosed.

Appendix B showing the proposed allocation of the land from the road.

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

MINUTE NO. 126

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 March 2010.

CONSULTATION:

Executive Management Team

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. N. Katsis
SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT the status report on Reports and 'General Business' items outstanding as at March 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 March 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 3 May 2010.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Minutes of previous meetings of the Council.

Cr. Tsitas returned to the meeting during discussion of the above item – 8.40pm

8. URGENT BUSINESS

Nil.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS**9.1 CROSSOVER AND FENCE – 16 CRAWLEY STREET RESERVOIR**

MINUTE NO. 127

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Morgan

SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT:

- (1) Council give consideration to allowing construction of a crossover at 16 Crawley Street Reservoir.
- (2) Council give consideration to allowing construction of a replacement fence at 16 Crawley Street Reservoir at the same height as the existing fence abutting the side lane and rear lane of the said property.

Council officers write to the residents of the above property outlining this resolution by Friday 15 April 2010.

CARRIED

9.2 FORMER LARUNDEL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

MINUTE NO. 128

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. G. Greco

SECONDED: Cr. S. Chiang

THAT Council safety officers and safety committee investigate the level of vandalism occurring around the former Larundel Psychiatric Hospital to determine what preventative action can be taken by Council to address this issue in cooperation with police, Neighbourhood Watch and local residents.

CARRIED

9.3 ORGANISATION STAFF PROFILE**MINUTE NO. 129****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

THAT Council officers prepare a report to Council on an annual basis on the Council organisation staff profile including specific reference to the age, gender, skills and ethnicity and languages spoken for all positions and levels across the organisation.

CARRIED**9.4 STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET SUBMISSIONS****MINUTE NO. 130****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

THAT Council officers prepare draft submissions to the Federal and State Government budget processes for consideration by Council and provide a report including the submissions and a consideration of the benefits of making this a regular practice.

CARRIED**9.5 PROPOSED DISCONTINUANCE AND SALE OF RIGHT OF WAY (ROAD) ADJACENT TO 30A CLIFTON STREET NORTHCOTE****MINUTE NO. 131****COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

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

THAT Council give consideration to the discontinuance and sale of a right of way (lane) adjacent to 30A Clifton Street Northcote and report to the next Council meeting regarding this matter.

CARRIED

9.6 PROPOSED EDUCATION PROGRAM AIMED AT REDUCING VANDALISM

MINUTE NO. 132

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. N. Katsis
SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT Council safety officers and safety committee undertake an investigation into the cost to facilitate an educational program to educate a small and misguided section of our youth that mindless vandalism is ultimately dumb and not cool. The educational program needs to highlight that what is ‘fun’ today is in fact causing hardship to their own families as these items that are vandalised ultimately need to be replaced and are paid through the payment of rates and/or higher rent by their parents – the educational initiative could be titled “Vandalism - Just Dumb”.

CARRIED

9.7 HIGH STREET, PLENTY ROAD, DUNDAS STREET PRESTON JUNCTION AREA

MINUTE NO. 133

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

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

THAT relevant Council officers meet with local police with a view to requesting a higher police presence at the High Street, Plenty Road, Dundas Street Preston Junction and the area surrounding ‘Safeway’ Preston South.

CARRIED

9.8

INSPECTION OF STORMWATER PITS

MINUTE NO. 134

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT officers report back to Council regarding the inspection regime relating to stormwater pits in the northern section of Boldrewood Parade and New Street area of Reservoir and advise of any remedial action required or undertaken in those stormwater pits.

CARRIED

10. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL**CLOSE OF MEETING**

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

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 and personnel matters:

- 10.1 Provision of Demographic Services Contract - CT20101.
- 10.2 Provision of Consultancy Services Contract - CT6021
- 10.3 Tender for the Supply and Installation of a Radio Frequency Identification System for Library Facilities - CT200917
- 10.4 Contract of Employment – Chief Executive Officer

CARRIED

The meeting was closed to members of the public at 8.59pm.

The Council considered and resolved on Report Item 10.1 (Provision of Demographic Services Contract – CT20101), Report Item 10.2 (Provision of Consultancy Services Contract – CT6021), Report Item 10.3 (Tender of the Supply and Installation of a Radio Frequency Identification System for Library Facilities – CT200917), and Report Item 10.4 (Contract of Employment – Chief Executive Officer) which had been circulated to Councillors on Thursday 1 April 2010 with the Council Agenda Paper.

RE-OPENING OF MEETING

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting was re-opened to members of the public at 9.18pm.

CONFIDENTIAL**10.1 PROVISION OF DEMOGRAPHIC SERVICES CONTRACT - CT20101**

MINUTE NO. 135

AUTHOR: Principal Strategic Planner – Kris Shaw**MANAGER:** Director Development and Amenity – Michael Ballock**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** The cost of the contract over 3 years (\$203,500 excluding GST) will be funded from the Strategic Planning operating budget. The contract provides for an annual review of prices to allow for CPI increases.**SUMMARY:**

Consideration of this matter was deferred by Council at its previous meeting 15 March 2010. Further information has subsequently been presented to Councillors.

Tenders have been called for the provision of demographic services for the whole of the organisation. The contract called for service providers to host and manage an interactive website that profiles Darebin's population (current and forecast), housing and economy for a 3 year period with the option of a further 3 years.

Up until recently a part-time consultant demographer based at the Council offices has been providing analysis of ABS census data and other statistics. For varying reasons, this service has not been able to keep pace with the requirements of the organisation and has been opened up to other providers to tender for the provision of this service.

Two tenders were received.

This report recommends that the tender submission of ID (Informed Decisions) Consulting Pty Ltd be accepted by Council.

CONSULTATION:

Social Research & Service Development Coordinator

Senior Research & Project Officer (Business Improvement)

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) The tender submitted by ID Consulting Pty Ltd for the provision of demographic services for the amount of \$223,850 over 3 years (inclusive of GST) be accepted.
- (2) The Director Development and Amenity be authorised to finalise and execute the contract documentation.
- (3) All tenderers be advised accordingly.”

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**10.2 PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES CONTRACT - CT6021****MINUTE NO. 136****AUTHOR:** Strategic Planner – Kylie Long**MANAGER:** Director Development and Amenity – Michael Ballock**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Outlined in the report**SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the Reservoir Structure Plan Project. The contract called for services providers to prepare a Structure Plan for Reservoir Major Activity Centre.

Eight tenders were received.

This report recommends that the tender submission of TRACT Consulting be accepted by Council.

CONSULTATION:

Procurement and Contracting Unit

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION**MOVED:** Cr. T. Laurence**SECONDED:** Cr. D. Asmar

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) TRACT Consultants for the Reservoir Structure Plan project be accepted.
- (2) The Director Development and Amenity be authorised to finalise and execute the contract documentation.

(3) All tenderers be advised accordingly.”

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL**10.3 TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF A
RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) SYSTEM
FOR LIBRARY FACILITIES - CT200917****MINUTE NO. 137****AUTHOR: Manager Darebin Libraries – Katrina Knox****MANAGER: Acting Director Communities and Culture – Dean Griggs****BUDGET
IMPLICATIONS: Outlined in the report****SUMMARY:**

Tenders have been called for the supply and installation of a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology system across Darebin Libraries. At the close of tenders six tenders were received.

The first stage of evaluation involved a desk top review of the tenders, including costs. Following this process three suppliers were short listed to supply a customer self service unit for usability testing with customers and staff. This testing took part over a two week period with those taking part completing a survey of their experience.

Finally at the conclusion of this stage references for the short listed suppliers were checked.

This report recommends that the tender of FE Technologies be accepted based on the maturity of the technology proposed, their excellent performance in the usability testing, their proven track record in delivering projects of this nature and complexity and the cost. Contract matters are to be negotiated.

CONSULTATION:

Manager IT, Darebin Libraries
Director Communities and Culture
Darebin Libraries Customers
Darebin Libraries Staff
Coordinator Procurement and Purchasing
Wyndham Library Service
Melton Library Service

RECOMMENDATION

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

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. D. Asmar

THAT the following Council Resolution:

“That:

- (1) Council accept the tender of FE Technologies for the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology system across Darebin Libraries.
- (2) Council officers to negotiate a contract based on, but not committing Darebin to an implementation across all four libraries.”

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

CARRIED

CONFIDENTIAL

10.4 CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MINUTE NO. 138

AUTHOR: Manager Corporate Governance – Ray McQuillen

MANAGER: Director Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS: Outlined in the report

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the Council resolution on 29 March 2010, the contract of employment for the Chief Executive Officer is to be submitted to Council for signing and sealing.

CONSULTATION:

Mayor, Cr Vince Fontana
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Manager Organisation Development

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT the Council Resolution and the report remain confidential.

CARRIED

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.