

Enquiries:

5 June 2013

The Hon. Peter Walsh MP
Minister for Water
Level 20, 1 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3000

Dear Minister,

RE: CHEDDAR ROAD MEDIAN STRIP GATEWAY BEAUTIFICATION

Darebin Council seeks your support as we seek approvals from Melbourne Water and Yarra Valley Water to beautify the median strip on Cheddar Road, Reservoir.

The median strip on Cheddar Road is a large linear reserve owned by Melbourne Water approximately 1.5 kilometres in length with an average width of 35m and serves as the major northern gateway into The City of Darebin. Cheddar Road median strip houses the Winneke-Preston Main and Yarra Valley Water's Morang-Preston Main.

At present the median is turf punctuated by small trees. This aesthetic does not create a welcoming entry into Darebin and misses out on a key opportunity to mitigate the urban heat island effect through increased tree and ground plane planting. The suburb of Reservoir in general is undergoing urban renewal and an upgrade to this gateway would go a long way to increasing pride in Reservoir and Darebin as a whole. Further Council has recently adopted its Greenstreets Strategy and is aiming to increase the canopy cover in the municipality by 25% in the next eight years.

Council has unsuccessfully approached Melbourne Water seeking permission to develop a landscape plan and undertake planting on the median. I now seek your support as we continue dialog with Melbourne Water requesting permission to plant small trees and garden beds on the Cheddar Road median strip. Council is happy to be flexible in the plantings chosen to ensure there is no risk of damage to the assets of Melbourne and Yarra Valley Water.

Please join me in urging Melbourne Water to grant permission to the City of Darebin to increasing the amount of planting on the Cheddar Road median strip to beautify our northernmost gateway.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Tim Laurence
Mayor City of Darebin