

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 22 February 2020 11:12 AM
To: Councillors - Crs and Support Unit
Subject: Frustrated resident - yarra Street and Studley Street parking issues

Councillors

I am writing to express my frustration with the approach to consultation on the removal of parking on Yarra and Studley Street issues discussed, considered and deferred by council at the last council meeting of 2019 (17 December).

At the 17 December meeting, I was under the impression that, given the overwhelming community response to the proposed removal of parking and the unclear and misleading claims that were the basis of the original request (i.e. that on curbside parking was illegal and not a viable option etc) - councillors would be very keen to ensure that all residents were thoroughly engaged and consulted on this issue before it returned to council once again.

However, on Thursday evening, following an invitation to a "discussion" via leaflet letterbox drop to the effected streets only one week prior (noting it was made clear at the council meeting that surrounding streets were to be consulted in future), we were not provided any documents, data, analysis to respond to or discuss. Instead Council staff very quickly and at a high level verbally outlined their due diligence approach and thoughts, and advised us that:

- we would not be provided an opportunity to review the council papers or final proposal before it was lodged to council - instead being told we could access it a week prior to the meeting;
- unable to confirm that the proposal to remove parking would not be included as a viable option and that the final proposal to council may or may not align with any of the issues discussed, as the staff "directors would have final say" (so basically we were talking to the wrong people it would seem).
- the council would be making a final decision at upcoming March meeting, even though residents were not provided with an opportunity to assess the proposal for accuracy, ensure the product adequately responded to our needs and accurately reflected our views/concerns.

The above in my view does not represent sufficient and adequate public consultation with the local residents and I am unsure if this aligns with the council's view on what it thought would occur - we deserve much much more respect and effort given the circumstance. I also would have thought councillors would have been approaching this issue carefully given that it could eventually represent an issue that may impact residents across the entire council (with the issue not being isolated to these two streets alone given that there were many many many other similar streets across the council, with I'm sure, residents who are equally as concerned and passionate as we are).

I completely appreciate that this may be a complex and sensitive issue - however, good public policy is only possible when the ideal balance competing risk, stakeholders needs and management of limited resources is found. In this situation, it seems that the perceived risk is being elevated above our needs as your priority stakeholder and that retention of parking is very important as it is limited and a resource that affects our daily lives. Unless this balance is corrected and we have full transparency of the facts and analysis and are adequately consulted, we are unlikely to feel heard and engaged.

I am very much looking forward to reading the upcoming report. Depending on the content and proposals, if not adequately responding to our needs once again, I can assure you in advance of this meeting that once again that you can expect a number of petitions and full house meetings including, other concerned local residents (from directly affected and the surrounding streets) - we may also choose to expand our engagement to other areas of the council to ensure other streets and residents are made aware of the likely precedent setting event and that their parking is also at risk in future.

Thank you for your time.

Regards

