

*In reply please quote:D13/113343  
Your Ref: CMIN049437  
Contact: Barbara Higgins 9205 5055*

30 December 2013

The Hon Matthew Guy MLC  
Minister for Planning  
1 Spring Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000  
DX210292

Dear Minister

### **Darebin-Yarra Trail Link**

Thank you for your letter dated 14 November on the provision of a local connection to the Darebin Creek Trail for Yarra residents.

Yarra City Council understands the complex nature of the path alignment and subsequent construction. The path is a vital piece of infrastructure for the northern suburbs of Melbourne and you are commended for its support and its coming to fruition.

However, the lack of appropriate connections for prospective path users living in the City of Yarra is a significant omission. The suggestion that Yarra community members could access the path via Heidelberg Road does not recognise the unsuitable nature of this route. The proposed route requires cyclists to navigate a major road with no bicycle lane, while families with young children are required to ride on a very narrow footpath that cannot accommodate two-way travel. This circuitous access would certainly be a disincentive to use of the path as a preferred method of transport to take pressure off the road network.

Further, in the absence of a local connection for Yarra residents, Yarra would not accept asset maintenance and replacement responsibilities for infrastructure that is not accessible without Yarra residents having to leave our Municipality.

As it is very much in the public interest to remedy the gap in access to the trail, it would be appreciated if you could ask your office to contact Barbara Higgins, my Executive Assistant to arrange a meeting with myself and senior officers to discuss this matter and the ongoing management and maintenance responsibilities in more detail. Her contact details are (03) 9205 5055 or [barbara.higgins@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:barbara.higgins@yarracity.vic.gov.au)

We very much look forward to hearing from you and/or your office on this matter.

Yours sincerely



Cr Jackie Fristacky  
**Mayor**