
This record is provided as a summary of the questions asked by members of the public during Public Question Time at a meeting of the Yarra City Council. This summary includes the names of questioners, the subject matter of questions, the person providing a response and whether or not an answer was provided. An audio recording of the Council Meeting (including Public Question Time) is available on Council's website for twelve months following the meeting. **If a question is taken on notice, any response provided after the meeting is included here in red text.**

7.1 Mr Michael Francis and Ms Margaret O'Brien - Salisbury Place, 34-36 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy - PLN16/1028

Questions:

By any reasonable means, this planning decision does not adhere to Council's policy on Heritage Overlays and, specifically, the World Heritage Overlay of the World Heritage Environs Area for the precinct, the area of greatest sensitivity. Given Council planning approved expenditure for solicitors and heritage consultants at VCAT to promote the revised proposal 34-36 Nicholson Street, Would Council consider implementing a policy whereby greater protection is given to this architecturally historical buffer zone by ensuring that all applications in the environs area are dealt with by IDAC or, ideally, full Council?

The government's review of the World Heritage Management Plans is due now. Council is a member of the World Heritage Management Steering committee, so council could have a lead role in the review. The review will include the Environs Area Strategy Plan, planning laws and controls and governance. Currently a DDO of 8.5 meters applies to only two areas of the precinct in Yarra. To contribute to the strengthening of World Heritage values and protections, as an immediate action Could Council pass an amendment to the local planning scheme so that a mandatory height limit of 8.5 meters is applied to the whole WHEA buffer zone and seek approval of this amendment from the Planning Minister?

Response:

The Director Planning and Place Making responded.

Cr Jolly requested that the Group Manager Chief Executive Officer draft a resolution on the matter for the next Council meeting. The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office responded.

The Director Planning and Place Making responded to the second question.

7.2 Ms Cressida Fox - Contemporary Art Society of Victoria - Payment

Question:

Why has the City of Yarra refused to give Contemporary Art Society of Victoria Inc. the modest payment for the Australian National Roadshow 2017 which was held at the Fitzroy Library this year from August to September?

Response:

The Acting Director Community Wellbeing took the question on notice.

7.3 Mr Richard Lee - President, Contemporary Art Society of Victoria - Publication

Question:

Why has the City of Yarra refused to include the Contemporary Art Society of Victoria Inc. in publications (including 'Yarra Libraries What's On') despite committing to do so in writing since May 2012?

Why has the City of Yarra refused to include the Contemporary Art Society of Victoria Inc. exhibitions, such as Art at Burnley Harbour 2016 on the public webpage despite committing to do so?

The information was submitted 3 times over 3 months and the City of Yarra Communications Team confirmed it was received. I was promised a written explanation by the Mayor, Amanda Stone in December 2016.

Response:

The Acting Director City Works and Assets responded to the first question.

The Mayor responded to the second question.

Cr Nguyen offered to meet with Mr Lee to discuss the matter.

7.4 Mr Greg Spark - Salisbury Place, 34-36 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy - PLN16/1028 - Council's Decision

Question:

Council changed its decision and no explanation was given? Eight storeys is still hugely non-compliant and as the development is in a world heritage precinct, how did Yarra Planning Management weigh the importance of a world heritage precinct against those in other policies that they might have had to consider, but we don't know as it did not go to IDAC where we would have known. My question is asking for management reports, records and directions of the Council's VCAT representatives be made public, at least to the Heritage Advisory Committee. Important decisions have been made by the internal panel without a public forum. Decisions were made that seem not to have met Council's own heritage policies but more importantly world heritage policies, this is very concerning. The National Trust made a submission to VCAT opposing the development. What were the reasons for Council's changed position?

What were the total costs of the consultants, external advice, legal representations and the expert witnesses, which the rate payers footed the bill for to help the developer win their case?

Response:

The Director Planning and Place Making responded.

The second question was taken on notice.

The Director Planning and Place Making later advised that the total cost was \$45,330.75.

7.5 Ms Nyree Clyne - Proposed Closure of Station Street/Petition

Question:

I live on Canning Street, Carlton North and a commuter on the Canning Street bike path and most importantly to me as the parent of two children who cross the Canning and Lee Street intersection every morning on their way to school. We are potentially going to be impacted by having up to an extra 470 cars diverted through that intersection, should the proposed trial closure of Station Street proceed.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on October 3, 2017 notes that the Council's Manager of Traffic and Special Projects recommended that Council resolves to conclude the process of a temporary closure of Station Street at the intersection with Princes Street on the basis that evidence does not exist to support the proposal. Additionally Council noted that VicRoads has no objection to the proposed trial closure of Station Street subject to the local community being supportive of the closure. Over 80 % of the responses were opposed to the road closure and this morning the residents and local community submitted two petitions to the Council, the first being the Change.org online petition for which I am the organiser of and containing 270 signatories and 120 of those included details articulating their personal reasons for objecting the closure. The second petition objecting to the proposed closure of Station Street at the Princes Street intersection is a hard copy petition that has been filled with the names, addresses and signatures of 536 local residents who oppose the proposal.

Given the recommendation from VicRoads and Council's own officers what weight will you give to the voice of the people in your electorates who have clearly demonstrated an overwhelming opposition to this proposal?

Response:

The Mayor responded

7.6 Mr Maurice Sheehan - Waltham Street Tram Stop

Question:

Waltham Street tram stop is an elevated tram stop and about the 23 October I noted that the four poles leading up on that tram stop had been knocked down. I further communicated with VicRoads and VicRoads on three occasions took note, said it would be actioned. Nothing happened and it was heading into November. A taxi got caught on the elevated side and an accident occurred and police arrived. With the assistance of the Acting Director Planning and Place Making, Jane Waldock, there was communication on a higher level in VicRoads than what I was able to achieve and a discussion was arranged between VicRoads and myself. I also spoke with Yarra Trams, they said it was not their responsibility. I have had further communication with other people within VicRoads, communicated with the local member, state member Richard Wynne and also Luke Donnellan, Minister for Roads and Road Safety. The matter was resolved yesterday, so almost a month where the uprights have not been there.

Could Council please facilitate communication with the appropriate bodies to ensure

that if there is action that needs to be taken in relation to any of the elevated tram stops within the City of Yarra that they do get on and do their job and resolve it to the safety of all concerned?

Response:

The Mayor responded