

## Questions taken on notice

2 August 2022



At Council meetings, questions from the public and from Councillors are sometimes taken 'on notice', meaning that an answer cannot be provided at the meeting itself. When an answer is available, it is provided direct to the questioner, and is also published here.

As well as the full response, the text below includes a summary of the question and the answer provided at the meeting. A recording of the Council Meeting (including Public Question Time and Councillor Questions Without Notice) is available on Council's website for four years following the meeting.

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### Response to question from Greg Smith

#### Question

*I am a volunteer for the endorsed Liberal Party candidate for the state electorate of Richmond, Mr Lucas Moon. Upon reviewing Council's policy on political advertising and campaigning on Council controlled land and assets (document reference D16/129355), the Lucas Moon campaign believes that it is too restrictive, too expensive and fundamentally undemocratic. The policy only allows operation at a single location, on a single day for a cost of \$71.00. The policy also states that multiple locations and times will not be considered. Where trying to cover a very large area consisting of suburbs of Richmond, Cremorne, Burnley, Abbotsford, Collingwood, Clifton Hill and Fitzroy North. The Council's own policy was last approved on the 31 August 2016, it's review cycle is four years and was due to be reviewed on 31 August 2020. The current policy is therefore just shy of 6 years old.*

*We would like to make a proposal to Council that would be beneficial to all election candidates including those from registered political parties and independents. Given that election campaigning is conducted over a relatively short period of time in a four-year election cycle where no commercial sales or fundraising activities occur, we propose that:*

- *Election candidates register with the Council prior to an election following registration with the VEC.*
- *Campaigning activities are restricted to three hours at any one location on any single day and for the duration of the VEC's operating hours at pre-poll locations.*
- *Are restricted to six locations on any single day.*
- *That Council waives the fees to obtain a temporary public space permit.*
- *Activities do not block footpaths, driveways, disrupt businesses or Council services.*
- *Activities cease at 6.00pm on election day.*

*Until the old policy is reviewed and approved and given that the state election is less than four months away, would the Council adopt this proposal as a trial?*

#### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

#### Subsequent response

The Senior Governance Advisor subsequently provided the following information:

As noted by the questioner, the referenced policy is due for review. This review is currently in its final stages, and it is expected that it will be adopted and made available before the end of September.

In reviewing the policy, Council recognises the right to freedom of expression enumerated in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006. This right extends to a freedom to political expression, including political campaigning, protest activity, assembling with like-minded others and freely expressing political opinions. The right to freedom of expression protects the right of people to hold an opinion and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas.

The right to freedom of expression comes with responsibilities. The Government can lawfully restrict this right if the restriction is necessary to protect the rights of others or to protect public order, public health, public morality or national security.

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## **Response to question from a student of Alphington Grammar**

### Question

*When there is no access to the Darebin Creek or anywhere else, why open the gate, put students at risk and disrupt the learning environment of Alphington Grammar students?*

*Why does the Council continuously say that the decision about the Old Heidelberg Road matter was overwhelming community response 340 people of which 63 percent of this 340 all acknowledge the intended use is not suitable? On the contrary our school community consists of over two thousand stake holders of which none got a voice. Along this two thousand, additional three thousand people responded and signed the online petition, hence highlighting the fact that this is an issue which people do care about and not agree with idea that members of the public should have access to the road. Five thousand is definitely more than 340.*

### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

The Old Heidelberg Road reservation extends to and abuts the Darebin Creek reservation. Both of the reservations are public land to which members of the public are entitled to access.

In response to receiving community complaints following unauthorised placement of the pedestrian gates by the School and the subsequent restriction to previous public access, the Council had firstly conducted a formal public consultation in 2021 prior to considering and making its formal determination to require the road to be opened to public access. At that time there were some 400 submissions received the contents of which had been provided to the Council to consider prior to its determination.

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## **Response to question from a student of Alphington Grammar**

### Question

*I came from America, as my family made the deliberate decision choice to relocate to a safer country as my younger sister's school life and mine had been filled with weekly occurrences of news across the nation of school invasions. Practice drills and lockdowns had become*

*the norm as tragically schools had become targets and shootings had become all too common. My family made the decision to come to Australia from the United States of America to what they believe to be a safer country, yet I witnessed a man enraged with anger, enter my school with a grinder to remove a gate in front of television cameras whilst students were in attendance in which caused the school to go into lockdown. This brought back memories of what my sister and I left behind. As a student body we have all been watching the saga of Yarra City Council's decision to open the disused and redundant part of Old Heidelberg Road. We have been watching the meetings online and reading your minutes and naturally we have been discussing this matter in class and at home with our parents. Nothing about the Council's decision seems rational. My peers and I do not perceive it to be a well-considered decision. For us it holds little to no merit and no purpose that benefits the whole community of which Alphington Grammar is a significant portion.*

*Can you explain to me tonight the reason why you will not reverse what I and my peers consider a risky situation that puts the school community in harm's way?*

*If you will not revise this decision what specific considerations have Council members given to children's human rights and child safety matters in which are part of the Health and Children's Safety guidelines?*

#### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

#### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

It is firstly noted that the Old Heidelberg Road Reservation extends to and abuts the Darebin Creek reservation, both of which reservations are public land to which members of the public are entitled to access.

For many decades community access had been freely available to the Old Heidelberg Road reservation down to the Darebin Creek reservation.

The referenced pedestrian gates erected by the School immediately restricted the previously free public access which had been available to the community.

The Council in responding to many community complaints about the now restricted access, undertook a community consultation process prior to then considering the matter of the locked gates and then, subsequently determining to require public access to be reinstated.

The referenced Child Safety Standards are not considered applicable in relation to the matter of public access to a public road reservation.

The matter of the person who illegally took upon themselves to remove one of the gates was referred to Victoria Police for appropriate actioning.

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### **Response to question from a student of Alphington Grammar**

#### Question

*In the media we are all reading about Council for all the wrong reasons. I am disillusioned at the reopening of unmade and flood prone part of Old Heidelberg Road caused a division in my local community so I seek to understand the issues about public access to a road that has no purpose and no function, other than to allow a group of dog owners access to the school ovals, private land, no bike rider can get through, no one can cross the creek or get to sparks reserve or anything of any value to us local residents. My parents and rate payers are spending hard earned money that should not be spent on decisions that are not sound. The decision to remove the gate and enable public access does not give me any comfort that my*

*Council knows the area as well as they should. Since is now accessible has no value to the whole community.*

*Acting Mayor, what comfort can you provide me and my generation as first time voters that the decisions that matter most to youth such as Child Safety are well understood and considered by this Council?*

Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

For many decades community access had been freely available to the Old Heidelberg Road reservation down to the Darebin Creek reservation.

Access to open space is a high priority to Yarra residents.

In 2019, the School without authority, erected gates which restricted that previously available public access to that area.

The Council in responding to many community complaints about the now restricted access, undertook a community consultation process prior to then considering the matter of the locked gates and then subsequently determining to require public access to be reinstated.

The referenced Child Safety Standards are not considered applicable in relation to the matter of public access to a public road reservation.

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**Response to question from a student of Alphington Grammar**

Question

*I have been a student at the school for all of my secondary years and have experienced first hand the impact the bike path has had on the school oval size and orientation. On behalf of all the students who play sport on the Alphington Grammar ovals, I am here to provide the impact of your decisions on our own sporting facilities. The impact of Council's decision made on October 2021 has enormous negative impact for the day students which number some 200 primary and 400 secondary students and on ten other secondary and eight other primary schools who rely on our facilities for interschool sports. I highlight some key points:*

- *When land was acquired from the school to build a path along the creek our school oval was impacted.*
- *The oval was realigned to accommodate the trail and continue to have our full size sporting oval.*
- *There was an in principal agreement that AGS, which is a section of the road to compensate for the land lost from our oval due to the bike path. Due to the area being flood prone, significant funds were spent by the school to rectify drainage issues on the sporting field and to bring it to the standards so students would not sustain injuries and excess water could run off into proper drainage systems*
- *The maintenance teams spent the good part of the morning picking up dog droppings on our sports field so that our early morning sports training teams did not have to step into it and then bring it back into the showers and the classrooms*
- *The primary play area is littered with dog droppings despite the signs asking for those that enter to keep dogs out*
- *Yarra Council's decision to open the gate and the impact it has on the play area and our sporting facility is significant.*

- *Yarra's open space strategy highlights the importance of outdoor activity on health and wellbeing seems to be at odds with Council's decision which will now restrict our ability to use our sporting grounds for proper training and matches*

*Acting Mayor, what are you going to do to rectify these issues we now all face?*

#### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

#### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

It is noted that the Darebin Trail development has had an impact on the School's sporting grounds layout.

The Council's determination to require the gates to be opened was aligned to the points that:

- Old Heidelberg Road reservation down to the Darebin Creek reservation is public land and the public are entitled to free access to same;
- the community had enjoyed such free access for decades until 2019 when the School erected the pedestrian gates;
- the Council received many community complaints about the restriction to that public access which led to the Council firstly, undertaking a community consultation on the topic and following receipt of many submissions, gave further consideration the subject, which led to its determination to require the public access to be re-instated.

### **Response to question from a student of Alphington Grammar**

#### Question

*As my other peers have highlighted, the removal of the fence has caused great insecurity with a lot of the students at our school and has caused many to fear for their safety which is of a high concern to me as I do have a younger brother that attends the school as well.*

*Has there been any consideration of students and perhaps their opinions on the matter as the school gate pertains to the students?*

*Has there been any consultation with the school or any students regarding the fence and if there is any possibility for future consultation with students or school members?*

#### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

#### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

In response to the first question, as the Old Heidelberg Road and Darebin Creek reservations are public reservations it is land which is fully accessible by the public.

The erection of the pedestrian gates by the School led to the Council receiving community complaints that the previous free access by community was now restricted. The Council then undertook a public consultation process on the matter to which submissions were received from the community, some Community Organisations, the School and some of its affiliated bodies.

Subsequent to consideration of the submissions and the complaints about restrictions to public access, the Council then formally determined that the public access should be reinstated.

In response to the second question, a meeting has been arranged with the Mayor and representatives to meet with the school principal.

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## **Response to question from Max White**

### Question

*The Victorian government introduced eleven new child safe standards that came into effect on 1 July 2022. The commission for children and young people as well as schedules 1 and 2 of the Child Wellbeing Safety Act 2005, clearly states that organisations who must comply with the standards include both local Councils and schools. As such both Yarra Council and Alphington Grammar School have shared responsibilities for child safe matters under the relevant legislation.*

*Section 13 of ministerial order, number 1359, that covers the implementation of child safe standards clearly states that relevant organisations and I quote, must ensure that physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children, young people and students to be harmed. Furthermore, the new child safe standards clearly states that in complying with child safe standard number 9, an organisation must at minimum ensure risk management plans consider risks posed by organisational settings, activities and the physical environment.*

*I wrote to Council care of Ivan Gilbert, on 23 May 2022 raising my concerns about the risk in removing the gate posed to our students, some of whom have disabilities, and all of whom cross Old Heidelberg Road multiple times per day. I received a generic response directing me to Yarra Council statement on the removal of the gates which states that child safe issues are not of concern because and I quote, "the gate is already open before school starts until approximately 9.00am every day." This is factually incorrect, the gates were always shut during the school day for the very reason of protecting the students crossing Old Heidelberg Road.*

*Do you agree that Yarra Council has shared responsibilities for the safety of the children at Alphington Grammar School and that the decision to open the gates is contrary to your legislative responsibility to minimise environmental risks to children?*

*In coming to the decision to remove the gates was a child safe risk assessment undertaken as required by Child Safe Standards 9 and I so could I please have a copy of this risk assessment?*

### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

It is acknowledged that the State Government introduced Child Safety Standards to which the School and many other bodies are required to comply.

The Old Heidelberg Road reservation is public land to which the public have right of access, The referenced Child Safe Standards are not applicable to the matter of the public's rights to have access to the public road reservation.

The Council has been advised that the gates were open from around 7.00 a.m. to around 9.00 p.m. on school days.

It will be a responsibility of the School to ensure it is in compliance with the referenced Standards in respect of its property and premises.

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## **Response to question from Phillip Papas**

### Question

*During the July Council meeting, the advice was that the eastern section of the redundant Old Heidelberg Road was inspected on Monday 4 July at approximately 1.15pm and this included the road, kerb and channel, footpath and road reserve. No defects were specified or identified under the requirements of the Road Management Plan. Apart from the fact that the inspection date is well past the 26th month inspection period directed by policy and this is the interesting bit, school security footage of the inspection indicates that the inspectors spent limited time on the section of the road behind the gate, they inspected the drain outside the school gates, then went down the football field, then glanced at two drains at the end of what remains as the sealed section of the redundant Old Heidelberg Road, to be precise, they spent 53 seconds on the inspection, did not inspect the unsealed section of the road or the road reserve down by the creek at all, so that's 53 seconds less than a minute. Compliance with the Road Management Act does not merely mean that the inspector on site is ticking the compliance box, but that a thorough review takes place of the entire road to ensure that it is compliant before requirements.*

*Do you consider the unsealed land to be part of the redundant Old Heidelberg Road and if yes, why was the unsealed section not inspected?*

*The school recently appointed a surveyor to peg the boundaries of the school to ensure that the fence which we believe the school will be erecting shortly, accurately reflects both private and public land borders, given that the borders were not clear on the 4 July inspection, how did your inspectors know what to inspect? How did your inspectors know which section of the land was Old Heidelberg Road and which was private land and therefore how accurate in your opinion was the inspection that took place?*

### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

The Council's Road Management Plan only applies to the area of road actually constructed within the road reservation; the unsealed section of the Old Heidelberg Road title is not within the scope of the Road Management Plan inspection activities.

Council officers have access to spatial information systems with land parcel information and reviewed this before attending the inspection to determine which elements required inspection.

Officers conducting Road Management Plan inspections perform an initial visual scan of an area of road reserve as a means of identifying any areas that may contain defects that exceed the intervention levels defined in the plan. In the case that defects potentially exceeding the defined intervention levels are observed, the inspecting officer will take measurements of the defect to determine whether it exceeds the intervention levels and take photographic evidence of the defect and its extent. Officers are skilled and experienced in making the initial preliminary visual assessment; in this case they observed no potential defects that required measurement or closer inspection.

If you believe that there were any defects as defined in the Road Management Plan that were missed in the inspection, we would appreciate you reporting this to us; the easiest way to do this is via an email to [info@yarracity.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@yarracity.vic.gov.au) including a photograph of the issue.

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## **Response to question from a student of Alphington Grammar**

### Question

*I am perplexed as to why the Mayor and fellow Councillors made the decision to remove the school gate on redundant Old Heidelberg Road that has been protecting me ever since I came to the school at 10 years old.*

*You have made this decision without consulting or notifying the school students. Your community engagement policy states that you enable and encourage community participation. If this is true then why wasn't my opinion enabled in your supposed consultation process. Why didn't you encourage my safety, opinion and voice on this matter? So I ask the Council did you ever consider me or the other 600 students opinions or were you bias and only considered a select few opinions? Did you ever consider what you would do to ensure my safety and the other 600 students safety?*

### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

The Council was responding to many community complaints following the placement and locking of gates by the School in 2019 and which then restricted the public access that had previously existed for many decades.

The Council then undertook a community consultation process before it considered the question of the locked gates.

The community consultation followed Council's standard process and was open for a period from 5 May to 13 June 2021. It received some 400 submissions from the community, a number of Community Organisations, the School and a number of bodies affiliated with the School. The Councillors were provided with copies of the submissions and also heard a number of verbal presentations to the submissions at its formal Council Meeting prior to then making a determination to require public access to be re-instated.

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## **Response to question from Andrew Coutie**

### Question

*Over the years Alphington Grammar have spent much money and time on maintaining the safety of the old redundant part of Old Heidelberg Road.*

*How will the Council plan to meet their regulatory requirements in regards to the public safety of that road now that the school no longer feel obliged to?*

### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:



Council will undertake their regulatory requirements in relation to the entire length of the constructed Old Heidelberg Road, including inspections and repairs under the Road Management Plan, to the extent that Council is able to perform these activities and is not impeded by obstructions to the public road. Where the road is obstructed, Council has the power under the Local Government Act 1989 to remove those obstructions or require the person responsible for the obstruction to remove it.

If upon the removal of an obstruction, there is an identified safety risk, an assessment of this risk will be undertaken, and works planned as necessary to address this.

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## **Response to question from Manuel Simirus**

### Question

*Now that the school and Council knows that the boundaries exist on Old Heidelberg Road and as to the decision whether the school continue to pay the cost of the 24 hour security guards, repairs to the private land facilities, school lighting to make the area safe. During the last 32 years the school has spent a significant six figure sum on the upkeep on the repair of both sealed and unsealed sections of Old Heidelberg Road, this includes repairs to the footpath, repairs to the road itself, drainage etc.*

*In the same period, what was the total amount spent by Council to upkeep Old Heidelberg Road?*

*Has the Council allocated any budget for the necessary infrastructure works needed to build a safe road as per all the regulatory requirements now that the school cannot prohibit any users including pedestrians, bicycles, e-scooters and rollerbladers? There was an issue recently where a utility accessed Old Heidelberg Road and it got bogged and couldn't get out for 2 days. In light of this, what has the Council designated in funding?*

### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

Council's budget includes in the vicinity of \$16 million of expenditure each year on the maintenance, renewal and upgrading of transport assets (road infrastructure including associated drainage) throughout the municipality. This budget is allocated and prioritised based on need, including inspections under the Road Management Plan, condition assessments, issues reported by the community and road safety studies undertaken. Each year, Council's annual budget document lists the planned renewal capital works and other traffic and transport capital works upgrades. Road maintenance works are conducted throughout the municipality each year as needed including addressing defects identified by inspections under the Road Management Plan and issues reported by the community.

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## **Response to question from Suzy Stamos**

### Question

*Your Council website makes mention of a number of advisory committees that enable the community to have input into policy direction and activities. There are several that I believe are relevant to the Old Heidelberg Road including the Disability Advisory Committee, Environmental Advisory Committee, First Nations Advisory Committee and Multicultural Committee.*

*What input was sought from these advisory committees with regards to Old Heidelberg Road and are there any minutes to their meetings which verify the consultation with members of the committees has taken place?*

Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

Council's Advisory Committees meet periodically to discuss strategic and policy matters brought to them by Council officers, as well as matters raised by committee members (both Councillors and members of the community). The illegal erection of gates across Old Heidelberg Road and their subsequent removal by Council to enable community access was an operational matter that was not brought to Council's Advisory Committees.

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**Response to question from Luisa Di Giovine**

Question

*It is still unclear to the parents on the use of the road (Old Heidelberg Road). The Council has yet to explain what measures it will take to clarify the intended use for example is it a dog on-leash area, can cyclists pass through the gates on their bikes or do they have to dismount as is required on Heidelberg Road over the bridge, can cars now enter via the gate. I am just seeking clarification.*

Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

Pursuant to Council's guidelines, unless the area lies within a Council designated Off-Leash zone, then dogs should be kept on a leash at all times.

Given the Old Heidelberg Road reservation is not an "off leash" area, dogs should be kept on a leash at all times in that area.

There is no specific constraint on the use of bikes in the locality.

Given that only the pedestrian gate was removed, cars would not be able to access the area.

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**Response to question from Martha Vazenios**

Question

*There are two documents that I wish to reference tonight, the first is map number four of the Yarra Planning Scheme Local Provision and the second one is, City of Yarra Open Space document 2020. When reviewed side by side I put it to you that many may consider Yarra Councils document misleading. Map 4 of the Yarra Planning Scheme is a state government document, its published by the Victorian Government and it labels Alphington Grammar School with two labels or zones if you like. The first label is SUZ3, which equals special use zone schedule 3 and it's a label that's normally attributed to private schools such as Alphington Grammar. The second label is UFZ, which equals urban floodway zone. Now onto the City of Yarra, Open Space document 2020, at page 23 you attribute a PPRZ label*

*and PPRZ is public park and recreation zone, your legend describes it as existing PPRZ zoned land, but the school though is privately owned, yet Council misrepresent it on published documents as public. Councils document goes further in brackets, stipulates that it is not open space, an intriguing coupling of terms. Council please consider that there is no wonder that there is discord in the community. Yarra Council misrepresented them that Alphington Grammar in its entirety is public park and recreation zone. Based on this information will Yarra City Council consider republishing this document and make a public statement that corrections were required to accurately represent Alphington Grammar School with its true and factorial zoning?*

*There is a law that relates to matters relating to the land, one of them is the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Very recently there was an amendment to this act, its titled on your webpage as C269 amendments to this act and the explanatory report. You often receive advice from committees such as the Merri Creek Management Committee and I understand that there is a councillor that sits on this committee, Councillor Bridgid O'Brien and there is also a related panel report and I specify page 158. In a submission made by Merri Creek Management Committee, they raised issues concerning creeks in the area, so any waterways, rivers, creeks anything to do with water. On page 158, MCMC submitted that Yarra River, Darebin and Merri Creek corridors policies should include a strategy to establish a continuous wildlife habitat refuge and movement corridor with limited public access along one bank of each waterway and understanding planning issues along the Merri Creek policy development guidelines for Merri Creek should be included as a policy document. It seems by opening up public access via Alphington Grammar School goes contrary to the advice given by MCMC.*

*Would Council consider re-reflecting on the recommendations made by this committee and revisit this topic of opening up this space to the public, it goes against advice provided by members of your own council group?*

#### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

#### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

Officers have investigated the matter and it does appear that the document references Alphington Grammar school is identified as a PPRZ incorrectly.

Officers are now reviewing the process of correcting the plans.

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### **Response to question from a person who did not provide their name**

#### Question

*In regards to the removal of the gates, the rationale given for the removal of the gates was to provide access to the local residents to access the creek. How will the residents access the creek without going through, and if I may, without trespassing through the school oval and sporting grounds?*

#### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

#### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

The Old Heidelberg Road reservation runs to and connects with the Darebin Creek reservation. It is not necessary to go through or cross over the school oval or grounds to access the creek.

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## **Response to question from Damian Kipouridis**

### Question

*In relation to getting access to the trail, Farm Road was an option but it wasn't concrete at the that stage so Council decided to have a look at and looking back on it, Councillor Amanda Stone also said that it was a top priority getting access to the trail, which I think we all agree is a top priority. With that in mind and also now that we know that Farm Road is proceeding, when you look at this issue opening up those gates doesn't serve any purpose and in fact created what I believe is an additional safety issue and I brought it up at the last meeting, and I did look at the link, my question wasn't answered and all my question was about, was whether or not Council thought that is was a safety issue and was Council concerned about it because people are entering the creek to get to the Darebin Creek trail.*

*Has Council contacted the Department of Transport to get their opinion on creating a new access from Old Heidelberg Road to the Darebin Creek trail and building a new bridge?*

*If you look at Clark Street which is also an unmade road and it goes directly, the unmade part of it, to the Yarra River but the access there is concrete path, it's got council bins and a I think a seating area. So an unmade road done up like that and you have Old Heidelberg Road which is obviously leading nowhere. So will something like that also be done at Old Heidelberg Road? Is that what is being planned?*

### Response at the meeting

The Mayor took the question on notice.

### Subsequent response

The Group Manager Chief Executive's Office subsequently provided the following information:

As resolved by the Council in October 2021, the opening of the gates was to re-enable the public to access the Old Heidelberg Road reservation down to the Darebin Creek reservation as they had been able to do so for many decades prior to the gates being placed and locked.

The Council as resolved on 5 October 2021, also corresponded with the Minister for Roads advising of the many submissions and community aspiration to have a link to the Darebin Trail from Alphington and also to have the former bridge across the Darebin Creek replaced.

There are no works planned for the unconstructed section of the Old Heidelberg Road reservation.

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