



Ordinary Meeting of Council Minutes

**held on Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 7.00pm
Richmond Town Hall**

www.yarracity.vic.gov.au

1. Statement of Recognition of Wurundjeri Land

"Welcome to the City of Yarra."

"Yarra City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri as the Traditional Owners of this country, pays tribute to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Yarra and gives respect to the Elders past and present."

2. Attendance, apologies and requests for leave of absence

Attendance

Councillors

- Cr Amanda Stone (Mayor)
- Cr Danae Bosler
- Cr Mi-Lin Chen Yi Mei
- Cr Misha Coleman
- Cr Jackie Fristacky
- Cr Stephen Jolly
- Cr Mike McEvoy
- Cr Daniel Nguyen
- Cr James Searle

Council officers

- Vijaya Vaidyanath (Chief Executive Officer)
- Ivan Gilbert (Group Manager - CEO's Office)
- Andrew Day (Director - Corporate, Business and Finance)
- Bruce Phillips (Director - Planning and Place Making)
- Jane Waldock (Assistant Director - Planning and Place making)
- Guy Wilson-Browne (Director - City Works and Assets)
- Mel Nikou (Governance Officer)

3. Declarations of conflict of interest (Councillors and staff)

Nil

4. Confidential business reports

Item

- 4.1 Matters relating to legal advice; AND Matters relating to the security of Council property; AND Matters prejudicial to Council and/or any person
- 4.2 Contractual matters
- 4.3 Personnel matters

Confidential business reports

The following items were deemed by the Chief Executive Officer to be suitable for consideration in closed session in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989. In accordance with that Act, Council may resolve to consider these issues in open or closed session.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Fristacky

Seconded: Councillor McEvoy

1. That the meeting be closed to members of the public, in accordance with section 89 (2) of the *Local Government Act* 1989, to allow consideration of:
 - (a) matters relating to legal advice;
 - (b) matters relating to the security of Council property;
 - (c) matters prejudicial to Council and/or any person;
 - (d) contractual matters; and
 - (e) personnel matters.
2. That all information contained within the Confidential Business Reports section of this agenda and reproduced as Council Minutes be treated as being and remaining strictly confidential in accordance with the provisions of sections 77 and 89 of the *Local Government Act* 1989 until Council resolves otherwise.

CARRIED

Following consideration of Confidential business, the meeting resumed in open session.

5. Confirmation of minutes

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Jolly

Seconded: Councillor Fristacky

That the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5 September 2017 be confirmed.

CARRIED

6. Petitions and joint letters

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8. General business

Nil

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Nil

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6. Petitions and joint letters

6.1 Petition - Transform Gleadell Street into a dynamic neighbourhood precinct (LEGS)

Reference: D17/148875

A petition from the group LEGS (Let's Enhance Gleadell Street) was received by Council. It contained 282 signatures from residents of Yarra and surrounding suburbs. Petitioners are requesting that City of Yarra pursue State funding and transform Gleadell Street into a highly inviting pedestrian and cyclist priority space to strengthen the role of the precinct as a civic and community node.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Searle

Seconded: Councillor McEvoy

That the petition be received and referred to the appropriate officer for consideration.

CARRIED

7. Public question time

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 name of 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.

7.1 Mr Herschel Landes, President Bridge Road Mainstreet - Parking Sensors/ Judd Street Carpark

Question:

A question was asked about the availability of data from parking sensors along Bridge Road Richmond.

Response:

The Director Corporate, Business and Finance provided a response.

Question:

A further question was asked about the development of the Judd Street carpark in Richmond.

Response:

The Director City Works and Assets and the Director Planning and Placemaking provided a response.

7.2 Ms Kerry Echberg, Yarra Climate Action Now - Climate Emergency Plan

Question:

A question was asked about the Darebin Climate Emergency Plan adopted by the Darebin City Council.

Response:

The Mayor and the Assistant Director Planning and Placemaking provided a response.

7.3 Ms Elizabeth Honey, LEGS - Gleadell Street Richmond

Question:

A question was asked about the Council's discussions with the State Government regarding upgrades to Gleadell Street Richmond.

Response:

The Director Planning and Placemaking provided a response.

Question:

A further question was asked about Council's support for the Gleadell Street Market.

Response:

The Director Planning and Placemaking provided a response.

7.4 Mr Greg Spark - Collingwood Children's Farm

Question:

A question was asked about the impact of bicycle path improvements on the Collingwood Children's Farm.

Response:

The Mayor and the Director Planning and Placemaking provided a response.

Question:

A further question was asked about the parking of car share vehicles in Delbridge Street Fitzroy North.

Response:

The Director Corporate, Business and Finance and the Assistant Director Planning and Placemaking provided a response.

7.5 Mr Wayne New - Employee Costs

Question:

A question was asked about Council's expenditure on employee costs.

Response:

The Mayor and Director Corporate, Business and Finance provided a response.

Councillor Jolly left the meeting at 7.11pm

Councillor Jolly returned to the meeting at 7.13pm

Councillors Jolly left the meeting at 7.15pm

8. General business

Nil

9. Delegates' reports

Nil

10. Questions without notice

10.1 Councillor Searle - Ryan's Reserve

Question:

The State Government reversed its decision to rezone and develop Ryan's Reserve and get remove the netball courts that are there. Is there any update on Councils tenure in its lease over that land and the future of the zoning of it and what Councils role will be moving forward in its management?

Response:

The Director Planning and Place Making confirmed that matter was reversed by the Minister for Planning and so was the rezoning. Sports and Recreation Victoria are liaising with officers in terms of possible management structures going forward so it hasn't been confirmed it will be a lease or licence or whether it will be Council or someone else. Councillors will be informed of any updates.

10.2 Councillor Fristacky - Concrete Tree Surrounds v Hoops

Question:

I've noticed when cycling that the City of Melbourne are a little different in that the City of Yarra tend to have hoops around street trees and would like to draw your attention to the concrete surrounds which seem to offer a better protection to the trees. We do get a lot of trees damaged by the hoops particularly with cars parked there, both damaging the hoops and trees. Melbourne is also putting in much bigger porous surfaces around trees than we are doing.

Although there are advantages and disadvantages of the concrete tree surrounds, I would like to know if these have been examined in regard to tree health and if not can it be examined?

In relation the Urban Forest Strategy, would it be appropriate to have something in that about tree health and maintaining those with regards to the sorts of protections of those trees with tree surrounds?

Response:

The Director Planning and Place Making took the question on notice.

The Director Planning and Place Making advised that the Urban Forest Strategy that will be presented tonight is a high level strategy and is intended to set up significant operational aspects. It would not be appropriate to start adding finite detail design aspects in the strategy as it would end up being over 100 pages. The strategy is based on operational aspects and part of the precinct planting plan. Certainly take on board the health of new trees and getting new trees to grow to mature trees to provide shade and other benefits. Any aspects that can enhance trees, tree growth and maintain the life expectancy is something we will look into.

11.1 Update on proposed Rushall Reserve shared pathway

Trim Record Number: D17/61137

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

- (a) notes the further officer report regarding the proposed shared path in Rushall Reserve;
- (b) notes the feedback received at the roundtable meeting on 18 April 2017;
- (c) notes the judge's findings in *Monty v Bayside City Council & Ors.* (2010) relating to an incident on a shared path and the advice from Council's insurers on potential liabilities arising from constructing a path that does not comply with the minimum standards as recommended in the Austroads guidelines;
- (d) notes the benefits associated with amending the path alignment through Rushall Reserve as described in Attachment 4 as B2;
- (e) endorses construction of a 2.5m wide path with appropriate run-offs;
- (f) endorses an amended alignment consistent with A + B2 as described in Attachment 4;
- (g) authorises officers to prepare the necessary information to submit a planning permit application as required under the Yarra Planning Scheme, having regard to VicTrack risk assessment requirements, for construction of a 2.5m wide path with appropriate run-offs in the area generally shown as section A in Attachment 4;
- (h) authorises officers to include the relevant elements from 2(d) of the resolution of Council on 2 August 2016 (Attachment 2), those being:
 - (i) except where decking is required, that the path be constructed in asphalt;
 - (ii) measures to slow the speed of bicycles and other mobility aids using the path;
 - (iii) planting of intermittent low vegetation along the edge of the path with appropriate segments of fencing with gates for pedestrian access;
 - (iv) 1.4 metre high fencing along the embankment as a safety measure;
 - (v) additional seating in the reserve, the installation of a drinking fountain with a dog bowl, and improved signage; and
 - (vi) tree planting in the reserve and ground covers, to offset any tree and vegetation removal; and
- (i) authorises officers to communicate this resolution to park users through the installation of signage in the Reserve.

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Mr David Hall;

Mr Professor David Sless;

Ms Lou Baxter;

Ms Diane Woodward;

Ms Zoe Metherell (Share Rushall Reserve);

Mr Hamish Ewing;

Mr William Robb;

Ms Sarah Dixon;
Ms Emilia Dixon;
Mr Clinton Kitt;
Ms Fiona Bell;
Mr Greg Spark; and
Mr Marcus Coghlan.

Councillor Nguyen arrived at 8.03pm

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Coleman

Seconded: Councillor McEvoy

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the further officer report regarding the proposed shared path in Rushall Reserve;
 - (b) notes the feedback received at the roundtable meeting on 18 April 2017;
 - (c) notes the judge's findings in *Monty v Bayside City Council & Ors.* (2010) relating to an incident on a shared path and the advice from Council's insurers on potential liabilities arising from constructing a path that does not comply with the minimum standards as recommended in the Austroads guidelines;
 - (d) notes the previous Council resolution supporting an alignment described as B1 in Attachment 4;
 - (e) endorses construction of a 2.5m wide path with suitable run-offs;
 - (f) endorses an amended alignment consistent the resolution of Council on 2 August 2016, represented by A + B1 as described in Attachment 4; and
 - (g) authorises officers to prepare the necessary information to submit a planning permit application as required under the Yarra Planning Scheme, having regard to VicTrack risk assessment requirements, for construction of a 2.5m wide path with appropriate run-offs in the area generally shown as section A in Attachment 4.
2. That, in this regard,:
 - (a) Council further note that a planning permit application is required to be lodged for consideration of any proposed works in the Railway Reservation land and also any tree removal proposal in the Environmental Significance Overlay (referred to as Section A in Attachment 4); and
 - (b) that any such planning application would be advertised to enable the community to formally participate in that planning process.
3. That Council authorises officers to include in the plans for the proposal the relevant elements from 2(d) of the resolution of Council on 2 August 2016 (Attachment 2), those being:
 - (a) except where decking is required, that the path be constructed in asphalt;
 - (b) measures to slow the speed of bicycles and other mobility aids using the path;
 - (c) planting of intermittent low vegetation along the edge of the path with appropriate segments of fencing with gates for pedestrian access;
 - (d) 1.4 metre high fencing along the embankment as a safety measure;
 - (e) additional seating in the reserve, the installation of a drinking fountain with a dog bowl, and improved signage; and
 - (f) tree planting in the reserve and ground covers, to offset any tree and vegetation removal.

4. That Council authorises officers to communicate this resolution to park users through the installation of signage in the Reserve and other notifications on the Council web page.

CARRIED

CALL FOR A DIVISION

For: Councillors Coleman, Fristacky, Stone, McEvoy and Searle

Against: Councillors Chen Yi Mei, Bosler and Nguyen

11.2 Lennox and Nicholson Street Intersection Upgrade

Trim Record Number: D17/120746

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the officer report regarding the proposed urban design upgrade of Lennox Street abutting the Lennox and Nicholson Street intersection;
 - (b) note the community feedback from the public consultation which showed broad support for the design of the urban design upgrade project and the opposition of the memorial plaque;
 - (c) having regard to the outcome of the community response now endorse the design concept placed on exhibition without the proposed memorial plaque (refer Attachments 5 and 6); and
 - (d) authorise officers to proceed with detailed design documentation, tendering and construction to meet the funding timelines.

Public Submission

Mr Alan Choong addressed Council on the matter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor McEvoy

1. That Council:
 - (a) note the officer report regarding the proposed urban design upgrade of Lennox Street abutting the Lennox and Nicholson Street intersection;
 - (b) note the community feedback from the public consultation which showed broad support for the design of the urban design upgrade project and the opposition of the memorial plaque;
 - (c) having regard to the outcome of the community response now endorse the design concept placed on exhibition without the proposed memorial plaque (refer Attachments 5 and 6); and
 - (d) authorise officers to proceed with detailed design documentation, tendering and construction to meet the funding timelines.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11.3 Urban Forest Strategy Draft

Trim Record Number: D17/126313

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the officer's report on the Draft Urban Forest Strategy (Attachment 1);
 - (b) notes the input from the community during the preparation of the draft document;
 - (c) notes that the Yarra Community would have further opportunities to contribute to the development of the urban forest through the preparation of *Priority Planting Plans* as they affect their neighbourhood or street;
 - (d) approves the Draft Urban Forest Strategy (Attachment 1) and;
 - (e) requests an update on the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy in June 2018.

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Mr Greg Spark; and

Mr Alan Choong.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor McEvoy

Seconded: Councillor Coleman

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the officer's report on the Draft Urban Forest Strategy (Attachment 1);
 - (b) notes the input from the community during the preparation of the draft document;
 - (c) notes that the Yarra Community would have further opportunities to contribute to the development of the urban forest through the preparation of *Priority Planting Plans* as they affect their neighbourhood or street;
 - (d) approves the Draft Urban Forest Strategy (Attachment 1) and;
 - (e) requests an update on the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy in June 2018.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Bosler left the meeting at 10.03pm

Councillor Bosler returned to the meeting at 10.07pm

11.4 Heritage Advisory Committee Review

Trim Record Number: D17/135566

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes the officer report on the Review of the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) prepared by Beverley Klinger and Associates and its findings and recommendations.
2. That Council, having considered the HAC Review and the officer recommendations, resolves to:
 - (a) appoint the Heritage Strategy Advisory Committee:
 - (i) rename the committee to the Heritage Strategy Advisory Committee;
 - (ii) appoint a Heritage Strategy Advisory Committee for a four year term with quarterly meetings;
 - (iii) revise and simplify the purpose and objectives of the committee's terms of reference as set out in recommendations of the HAC Review, noting these will be reported to Council at the time of considering nominations for the Committee;
 - (b) interim arrangements:
 - (i) extend the term of the existing HAC until a new Heritage Strategy Advisory Committee is appointed.
 - (c) committee membership:
 - (i) seek expressions of interest for new committee members to the Heritage Strategy Advisory Committee comprising 12 community members and an officer from the National Trust. At least a third of the twelve community members should have specific expertise from conservation architecture, landscape architecture, aboriginal heritage, history and cultural planning;
 - (ii) encourage a mix of new and existing members for the committee membership and require all existing committee members seeking another term to re-nominate;
 - (iii) require that community members with long standing involvement in local heritage / community groups represent the views of that group at the Heritage Strategy Advisory Committee;
 - (d) operation of meetings:
 - (i) endorse the recommendations of the HAC Review in relation to the operation of the current meetings and ensure the new committee meetings and agendas are amended accordingly.
 - (e) Heritage Strategy:
 - (i) continue to support the implementation of the current Heritage Strategy and ensure that the renewed committee contributes to the preparation of a revised Heritage Strategy to be prepared in 2018/2019; and
 - (ii) endorse the recommendations of the HAC Review in relation to the current Heritage Strategy to ensure that the new strategy more clearly defines how its objectives are to be achieved and projects implemented, the roles and responsibilities of committee members and Council in implementing the strategy and the resources required to deliver it.
3. That Officers advise current HAC members of the Council's decision.

Public Submissions

The following people addressed Council on the matter:

Mr Margaret O'Brien; and

Mr Greg Spark.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Fristacky

Seconded: Councillor Searle

1. That Council notes the officer report on the Review of the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) prepared by Beverley Kliger and Associates and its findings and recommendations.
2. That Council, having considered the HAC Review and the officer recommendations, resolves to:
 - (a) defer consideration of the matter for a month in order to enable further input by the Heritage Advisory Committee and other members of the community; and
 - (b) extend the term of the existing HAC until a new Heritage Strategy Advisory Committee is appointed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Coleman left the meeting at 10.28pm

11.5 Proposed 2017/18 Annual Plan

Trim Record Number: D17/141436
Responsible Officer:

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council endorse the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Plan.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Chen Yi Mei **Seconded:** Councillor Nguyen

1. That Council endorse the Proposed 2017/18 Annual Plan.

CARRIED

11.6 MAV State Council - 20 October 2017

Trim Record Number: D17/142183

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

RECOMMENDATION

1. That in respect of the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council on 20 October 2017, Council:
 - (a) support the motion submitted by the City of Port Phillip regarding graffiti removal service levels.

REVISED OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That in respect of the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council on 20 October 2017, Council:
 - (a) support the motion submitted by the City of Port Phillip regarding graffiti removal service levels (Attachment 1) ; and
 - (b) endorse the attached motion as Attachment 2 titled 'Trial For A Medically Supervised Injecting Facility In Richmond'.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Searle

Seconded: Councillor Fristacky

1. That in respect of the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council on 20 October 2017, Council:
 - (a) support the motion submitted by the City of Port Phillip regarding graffiti removal service levels (Attachment 1) ; and
 - (b) endorse the attached motion as Attachment 2 titled 'Trial For A Medically Supervised Injecting Facility In Richmond'.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ATTACHMENT 2

Trial for a Medically Supervised Injecting Facility in Richmond

Submitted by: *Yarra City Council*

MOTION:

That the MAV:

1. Notes:
 - a. That there were 172 lives lost from heroin overdoses in Victoria in 2016;
 - b. The two Victorian Coroner's reports recommending a trial of a Medically Supervised Injecting Facility (MSIF) in Richmond;
 - c. The strong community campaign, including a recent 600 strong rally, conducted by residents and traders advocating for a MSIF in Richmond;
 - d. That the Medically Supervised Injecting Facility in Kings Cross in Sydney has operated for 15 years, has managed over 6,000 overdoses without a single fatality, has reduced needles and syringes on the street, has reduced the number of ambulance callouts to overdoses and reduced incidents of members of the community being exposed to scenes of overdose and drug use;
 - e. The pressure placed on emergency services in managing otherwise avoidable overdoses, preventing them from attending to other emergencies;
 - f. The overwhelming support from public health professionals for a MSIF including research conducted by the Burnet Institute; and
 - g. That drug addiction is a health problem and that the function of an MSIF is to minimise harm and refer users to health experts to manage the causes of their addiction.
2. Writes to the Victorian State Government urging them to support the trial of a Medically Supervised Injecting Facility in Richmond.

RATIONALE:

A Medically Supervised Injecting Facility in Richmond is overwhelmingly supported by health experts, emergency services, the Victorian Coroner, the City of Yarra, as well as many local residents and traders; yet the State Government is refusing to endorse a trial.

The MAV should advocate to the State Government to support a MSIF to prevent more lives being lost.

11.7 Yarra City Council's Procurement Policy - 2017 Review

Trim Record Number: D17/142246

Responsible Officer: Director Corporate, Business and Finance

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the annual review of the Procurement Policy in accordance with Section 186A (7) of the Local Government Act 1989 (**the Act**);
 - (b) notes the inclusions to the Procurement Policy as outlined in the Report at paragraph 2; and
 - (c) adopts the 2017 Procurement Policy and make it available for public inspection via Council's offices and website.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Fristacky

Seconded: Councillor Nguyen

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the annual review of the Procurement Policy in accordance with Section 186A(7) of the Local Government Act 1989 (**the Act**);
 - (b) notes the inclusions to the Procurement Policy as outlined in the Report at paragraph 2; and
 - (c) adopts the 2017 Procurement Policy and make it available for public inspection via Council's offices and website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12.1 Notice of Motion No 17 of 2017 - Sexual Harassment in the Hospitality Sector

Trim Record Number: D17/140773

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Public Submission

Ms Jess Browning addressed Council on the matter.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Bosler

Seconded: Councillor Chen Yi Mei

1. That Yarra Council note:
 - (a) the new campaign by United Voice attempting to deal with the sexual harassment in the hospitality industry; and
 - (b) the campaign is asking venues to agree to the following five point pledge:
 - (i) demonstrate zero tolerance including removing patrons who sexually harass staff or patrons;
 - (ii) promote zero tolerance by displaying a Respect in the Rule window sticker and posters in staff and patron areas;
 - (iii) establish a contact person for complaints, questions and concerns;
 - (iv) show managers and staff the Respect is the Rule training video; and
 - (v) distribute Respect is the Rule fact sheets to all managers and staff.
2. That Yarra Council expresses its support for this campaign and encourages local venues to sign up to the pledge.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12.2 Notice of Motion No.18 of 2017 - Richmond Football Club Banners at Richmond Town Hall

Trim Record Number: D17/142075

Responsible Officer: Group Manager Chief Executive's Office

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Nguyen

Seconded: Councillor Bosler

That in the matter of the Richmond Football Club playing in the 2017 AFL Final Series:

Council:

- (a) note its current support in flying the Richmond Football Club flag pursuant to the Flag Flying Policy;
- (b) note that the office is also promoting the matter by noting the Club's supporter events via the social media outlets and encouraging local businesses to use the promotion packs as provided by the Club;
- (c) note community representations made seeking Council to participate in the community spirit of a local team achieving the AFL finals by also placing some promotional banners or similar at the Richmond Town Hall whilst the Richmond Football Club is in the AFL Final Series;
- (d) support and approve the placement of support banners or posters which are identified as suitable;
- (e) note the Officer's report and:
 - (i) extend appreciation to the Richmond Football Club for loaning and erecting the promotional banners at the Richmond Town Hall; and
 - (ii) authorise the projection of appropriate promotional material on the front of the Richmond Town Hall as offered by the Bridge Road Traders Association.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13.1 City of Yarra Submission on North East Link (NEL) Project

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Fristacky

That the attached draft submission on North East Link be endorsed for submission by Yarra Council subject to finalisation by Councillors this week.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Background

The North East Link Project is described by the North East Link Authority (NELA) as “a new freeway to complete the missing link in Melbourne's road network.

North East Link will finally connect Melbourne's freeway network between the M80 Ring Road at Greensborough and the Eastern Freeway or EastLink.”

The North East Link Authority is preparing a business case and undertaking community engagement and this presents Yarra Council with an opportunity to respond to the 4 options provided, in light of Yarra's sustainable transport policies, our long held advocacy for a rail link to Doncaster along the Eastern Freeway and our advocacy for new transport projects to adhere to the principles of the Transport Integration Act in planning for Melbourne's future.

The following draft submission will be finalised following further input from Councillors and submitted following agreement from NELA that a late submission after the due date of 18th September will be accepted if it is submitted as soon as possible.

Draft Submission North East Link Project

City of Yarra has examined the 4 options for a proposed NEL and expresses its concerns regarding each of these.

Regarding **Option A**, although the NEL assessment matrix states this performs well/very well, it is submitted this option is counterproductive in funneling traffic onto the Eastern Freeway, Option A also undermines future-proofing Doncaster rail by hijacking a future Bulleen rail station site with freeway on/off-ramps.

The assessment states Option A works well for improving cycle routes. This is contested because cycle route selection becomes more complicated with NEL road structures. In any event, improved cycle routes can and should be provided for, more readily without the NEL.

For these reasons, Option A is not supported.

Options B & C operate as orbital routes to join the Western Ring Road with Eastlink to achieve the objective of a metropolitan ring road providing clearer more direct motor vehicle and truck routes from Ringwood to Greensborough. These Options would more likely alleviate pressures in the short term on the Eastern Freeway, than Option A or D. However, neither reflects the proper integrated planning which should be expected in advance of project development as set out below. In both cases, through induced traffic and lack of mass transit alternatives, these routes in time will experience the congestion which they seek to alleviate.

Option D, as a lengthy circuitous route outside the urban growth boundary, performs poorly on transport and land use criteria, and should clearly be abandoned.

There has been no transport modelling provided which would encourage mode shift over time away from single occupant car use on the routes involved in the NEL project. Further, current data suggests that a key driver of this project – truck volumes on Rosanna Rd – is outnumbered by the volumes of private car trips on Rosanna Rd suggesting that the increased capacity provided by any of the NEL proposed routes would simply cater to increasing volumes of car trips. This does not meet the requirements of sustainable transport policies seemingly pursued by the state government.

The NEL assessment refers to performance criteria but key overarching criteria are the mandated decision making principles and requirements of the Transport Integration Act 2010 (TIA). There is concern that the NEL Project is pursued in the absence of proper transport planning in accordance with TIA requirements. Section 63 of that Act requires the State to prepare a long and medium-term transport plan having regard to the mandated transport system objectives and decision making principles. These include economic social and environmental parameters as well as objectives to reduce reliance on private motor vehicle transport and support sustainable means of transport. There is no State transport plan examining the NEL project in this context. This mandated overarching plan should precede planning of single projects such as the NEL.

Such comprehensive planning, would it is submitted, support the MM2 rail project from Fishermen's Bend to Carlton/Parkville being integrated both with eastern corridor rail and with the NEL orbital rail connection from Greensborough to Ringwood. Thus MM2 would continue from Carlton/Parkville through Fitzroy to an interchange just north of Victoria Park and along the Eastern Freeway to serve public transport needs along that corridor to an interchange in the Donvale area along the NEL orbital rail connection. This would be the real game changer in transport for north east of Melbourne reducing the over-reliance on private motor vehicle travel in north eastern corridors.

Although the NEL assessment refers to catering for future bus/DART transport, it falls short of achieving the TIA objectives and principles in reducing reliance on private motor vehicle travel by more sustainable means of transport. Achievement of the TIA objectives requires public transport to be built into the project through:

- including provision in construction for **orbital rail linking the Greensborough line to the Ringwood rail line**. It is essential this be built into the project to provide critical cross town rail linkages. The 2008 Victorian Transport Plan set out the need for orbital rail as part of a proposed OMR. The NEL provides the opportunity to expeditiously commence this process linking the Hurstbridge and Lilydale lines from Greensborough to Ringwood. This would greatly assist in alleviating cross town congestion from private motor vehicle travel. Retrofitting an orbital rail route in the future will be a far more costly exercise than if rail linking the Greensborough – Ringwood lines was built into the NEL project. Rail can accommodate 20,000 passengers per hour to cover peak demand compared with a NEL traffic lane of around 1,000 vehicles per hour.
- **not compromising Doncaster Rail** including not adding to the cost and complexity of building Doncaster Rail. Any NEL route needs to be future-proofed to accommodate Doncaster Rail as an important component of Melbourne's growth along the Eastern corridor. This is in line with the emphasis on corridor protection set out by Infrastructure Australia in its report of 1 September 2017: *"Corridor Protection: Planning and Investing for the Long Term"*. Option A compromises Doncaster rail. Firstly, as stated above, by on/off ramps usurping a future Bulleen rail station site.

Secondly, although the NELA has stated that the Doncaster rail easement on the Eastern Freeway will not be used, adding extra vehicle lanes with induced traffic on the Eastern Freeway will undermine Doncaster rail.

Option A, in particular, is expected to induce more traffic onto the Eastern Freeway so that any initial travel time benefits will be eroded after a few years. Major exacerbated congestion problems through such inducement will arise at Freeway exits including at Chandler Highway and Hoddle Street with detrimental impacts on business and residential communities in Yarra and other parts of Melbourne. Without effective high capacity public transport being included as an integral part of the project, traffic inducement will apply to NEL options undermining any benefits of the project beyond a few years. This is bad transport planning policy.

The optimum method of providing sustainable transport options on the north eastern corridor is to ensure an orbital rail link is included as an essential part of the Project in a way consistent with supporting Doncaster Rail, while enhancing conditions for bus, walking and cycling access to rail stations.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 10.51pm.

Confirmed Tuesday 3 October 2017

Mayor