



11 September 2008

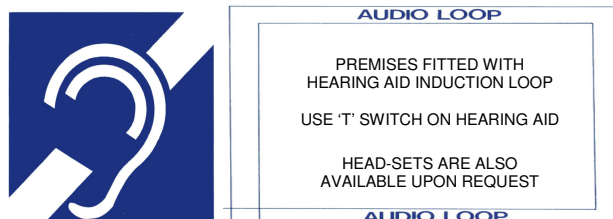
Councillor
(as addressed)

The next Council Meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood on Monday 15 September 2008, commencing at 7.30pm and your presence is requested.

Yours faithfully

Michael Marasco
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NOTE: Dinner will precede the Council Meeting at 6.00pm



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Service Centres: Croydon: Civic Square **Ringwood:** Level 2, Shop G104, Eastland

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Declaration of Interests
4. Confirmation of Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held Monday 18 August 2008
5. Public Question Time
6. Officers' Reports
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 - Director Community & Leisure Services (Blue)
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IN CAMERA

Director Corporate Services (Gold)

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ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

To appoint an Acting Chief Executive Officer for the period during which the Chief Executive Officer will be absent.

BACKGROUND

In order to ensure all necessary processes can be undertaken during the CEO's forthcoming period on annual leave, it is essential that an Acting Chief Executive Officer be appointed.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL APPOINTS HELEN CROXFORD AS ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER DURING THE CEO'S FORTHCOMING PERIOD OF ANNUAL LEAVE.

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY UPDATE

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

To provide Council with an update on the Maroondah Open Space Strategy Action Plan.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The Council Plan 2008-2012 identifies several strategies and actions relevant to the provision and management of open space including; "Plan, maintain, protect and enhance Maroondah's open spaces and natural environment" and "Implement Year 4 of the Open Space Strategy Action Plan". The Open Space Strategy was adopted by Council in August 2005 with an action plan covering a 10-year period.

BACKGROUND

The Open Space Strategy was developed over a number of years and built on the previous strategy produced in 1997. Key factors that drive the strategy include: greater environmental awareness; protection and conservation of water resources; increasing urbanisation and housing density; risk management and safety concerns; expectations of quality, diversity and accessibility; habitat loss and fragmentation; an aging population; declining physical activity; and limited Council resources. Council currently manages over 510 hectares of public open space, covering about 9% of the land area of Maroondah, with an above average number of sportsfields per head of population for a metropolitan Council.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Open Space in Maroondah is a valuable community resource that defines the character of the City, provides many social and recreational opportunities and helps to maintain the biodiversity and habitat of the region. The key objectives of the Open Space Strategy are as follows:

- Catering for changing demographics and demands
- Protecting local character and biodiversity
- Encouraging cycling and walking
- Catering for social family recreation
- Designing for diversity, sustainability and accessibility
- Creating the best mix and distribution of open space

The Action Plan sets out how Council and the Community can further these objectives through a wide range of strategies and recommendations that have been prioritised along with potential partners within Council and external agencies. A summary report has been produced that details many of the achievements in the last 3 years in implementing this action plan (See Attachment 'Open Space Strategy Achievements 2005-2008').

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The value of open space assets is significant when land values and all the infrastructure and trees are taken into account. Council current spends over \$5 million per annum to maintain these assets and over the last 3 years has spent over \$3 million on capital works projects to improve open space assets. Significant external funding has also been obtained through grants for new sport and recreation facilities and environmental improvements.

OPEN SPACE STRATEGY UPDATE

ITEM 1

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

The protection of the natural environment and providing habitat for flora and fauna is a critical component of open space management. Maroondah is fortunate to have a large area of open space with much of it still in a relatively undeveloped state that can provide vital habitat for wildlife. However the fragmentation and development of open space is a concern and Council needs to consider this is assessing any proposals for development or rationalisation that may impact on the value of open space and the natural environment.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

The community places great value on open space and associated facilities like playgrounds, sportsfields and picnic areas so it is vital that they are maintained and enhanced to meet residents needs. It is also vital that future demands and trends are accommodated in planning the design and management of open space assets. The Open Space Strategy identifies a number of key drivers that will affect the way open spaces are utilised into the future such as an ageing population and increasing housing densities. There are also some factors that have developed since the Strategy was finalised in 2005 that will impact on future provision of open space. These include climate change, the impact of water restrictions, Transit City and Activity Centre development, obesity in the younger generation and sustainable transport options.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There was considerable community consultation leading to the development of the Strategy and since then residents and user groups have been regularly consulted on issues related to open space when precinct or reserve future direction plans are being produced as well as planning for particular developments in open space.

CONCLUSION

Maroondah has a wealth of open space that is highly valued by the community for the social, environmental and recreational benefits it provides for the City and the region. Council has committed significant resources to maintain and further improve the facilities within open space as well as enhancing the natural environment. The Open Space Strategy is the key Council policy that guides actions related to open space management and development, ensuring that the values are retained for future generations. The summary document provides an overview of the many significant achievements in the past 3 years resulting from the implementation of the action plan.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THIS REPORT.

**COMMUNITY GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAM
2008/2009**

ITEM 2

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement for the allocation of financial assistance, through the Community Grants Funding Program to nominated community organisations for the 2008/2009 financial year.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in the Council Plan 2008–2012 provides the strategic framework that underpins the purpose and recommendations in this report:

Strategic Objective – Provide a range of grants, programs and special events that celebrate community participation and empowerment.

BACKGROUND

The Maroondah Community Grants Funding Program was launched on Wednesday 7th May at Maroondah Federation Estate to highlight the redesigned program, which incorporates the former Community Grants Scheme and former Cultural Development Scheme. The program has been streamlined into one application process whilst maintaining separate funding pools for the Community Grants Scheme and Arts and Cultural Grants Scheme.

The funding round was open for applications from Monday 5th May, closing on Friday 27th June 2008. Council received 48 Community Grants Scheme applications with a total request of \$111,815 and 10 Arts and Cultural Grants Scheme applications with a total request of \$23,238.

Key staff from the following service areas; Leisure, Culture and Youth Services, Aged and Disability Services, Early Childhood Services and Community Planning and Development individually reviewed and rated all applications according to the criteria listed below. Recommendations were agreed upon and presented for consideration at a Councillor Briefing held on Monday 8th September 2008.

Community Building

Projects which increase participation, encourage volunteering, provide leadership opportunities and increase learning and skill development.

Community Benefit

New initiatives or the expansion of an existing service that will address a clearly identified community need and contribute to improved wellbeing.

Community Support

Funding for community groups that provide help, advice or support to a specific population group who share a common experience. The common experience could be anything from personally experiencing a similar issue or life situation (eg: addiction, depression, rare condition/syndrome, disability, relationship, loss/grief).

**COMMUNITY GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAM
2008/2009**

ITEM 2

Clearly Defined Arts & Cultural Content

Projects that focus on community art projects, arts festivals and events, development of heritage practices, art exhibitions, the literary, visual and performing arts.

A summary sheet of successful applications is detailed in Schedule 1 on Pages 9-11.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Community Grants scheme applications were divided into, and assessed under the following 7 categories:

- Emergency Relief
- Community Support
- Community Projects
- Disability / Older Adults
- Children
- Youth
- Leisure/Culture

Arts & Cultural Scheme applicants were assessed as one group.

All successful applicants for the 2008/2009 Community Grants Funding Program will be required to enter into one year service agreements with Council. The funding and service agreements detail specific responsibilities, obligations and any identified reciprocal arrangements.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The budget for the 2008/2009 Community Grants Scheme is \$78,640. The total value of recommendations endorsed by Council is \$76,825, providing funding to 42 community organisations.

The budget for the 2008/2009 Arts and Cultural Grants Scheme is \$15,000. The total value of recommendations endorsed by Council is \$15,805, utilising \$805 from the Community Grants Scheme Funding Pool to provide funding to 7 community organisations.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Financial assistance provided by the Community Grants Scheme will assist to increase the availability and range of services, facilities and programs throughout the municipality. The Arts and Cultural Funding will assist in the implementation of; community art projects, festivals and events, development of heritage practices, art exhibitions, literary, visual and performing arts.

**COMMUNITY GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAM
2008/2009**

ITEM 2

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Community Grants Funding Program was promoted through Public Notices placed in both local newspapers, an extensive mail out to previous applicants and through Council's website. Applicants were encouraged to attend a Grants Writing Workshop held on Thursday 5 June at Maroondah Federation Estate. Applicants also had the opportunity to schedule an individual appointment with Council's Leisure Services Policy and Planning Officer or Council's Cultural Events & Liaison Officer to clarify any questions relevant to their particular organisation and request.

CONCLUSION

The applications recommended by the Councillors are detailed in Schedule 1 (refer pages 9-11).

All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their grant submission. Where possible, alternative funding options and other forms of assistance will be suggested to unsuccessful organisations.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1. APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED SUBMISSIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAM TOTTALLING \$92,630 AS OUTLINED IN THE SCHEDULE ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT.**
- 2. APPROVES THESE GRANTS BASED ON ONE-YEAR FUNDING AND SERVICE AGREEMENTS.**
- 3. ADVISES ALL ORGANISATIONS OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR GRANT SUBMISSION.**

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES - HELEN CROXFORD**COMMUNITY GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAM 2008/2009****ITEM 2****SCHEDULE 1****EMERGENCY RELIEF**

Name	Name of Project	Amount Recommended
Croydon Uniting Church Helping Hand	Helping Hand	\$3000
Eastern Emergency Relief Network	Emergency Aid Warehouse	\$2500
North Ringwood Care	Perishable Food Project	\$3000
Heathmont Inter Church Help Inc	H.I.C.H Community Grants Scheme	\$2000
The Salvation Army Ringwood Community Support Services	Family Support Funding Assistance	\$2000

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Name	Name of Project	Amount Recommended
Family Access Network	Driver Education Program - 120 hours (Level 2)	\$5000
Hope City Mission (formerly Croydon Community Care)	Pamper Day	\$1960
Anglican Church of St John Divine	Soup Kitchen	\$500
Croydon Stroke Support Group	"Life after Stroke" promotion and on-going support	\$750
Eastern Polio Support Group	Eastern Polio Support Group Information and Advocacy Project	\$750
People with Multiple Sclerosis, Self Help Group	Croydon PWMS, SHG monthly interaction for sharing of knowledge and items	\$750
Ringwood Prostate Cancer Support Group Inc	Ringwood Prostate Cancer Support Group	\$750
Eastern Community Legal Centre	Health Service Providers Awareness Project	\$950
St John Ambulance Australia (Victoria) - Community Care	Visiting Friends - Supporting residents who have the greatest barriers to accessing services	\$3150
The Salvation Army Ringwood	Byways Community Lunch Program (Talk 'N' Tucker)	\$4000

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES - HELEN CROXFORD

COMMUNITY GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAM 2008/2009

ITEM 2

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Name	Name of Project	Amount Recommended
Croydon RSL Sub Branch	Seating extension	\$2800
Migrant Information Centre, Eastern Melbourne	Healthy Lifestyles camp for Burmese refugees settling in the Maroondah region	\$5000
Neighbourhood Watch MRD10	Printing Newsletters	\$260
Neighbourhood Watch, MRD 22 & 23 Ringwood	Printing Newsletters	\$255
Neighbourhood Watch, Ringwood East Area MRD33	Volunteer Identification & Local Awareness	\$725

DISABILITY/OLDER ADULTS

Name	Name of Project	Amount Recommended
Croydon Senior Citizens Centre	Sound System Upgrade	\$1546
Skylarkers Inc	Costume Replenishment	\$500
Donwood Community Aged Care Services	Donwood Aged Care Activities Program	\$1000

CHILDREN

Name	Name of Project	Amount Recommended
Anglicare Victoria	Anglicare Victoria Maroondah Integrated Family Services (MIFS) Boys Group 8 to 12 years - "Transformers"	\$2579
Irabina Childhood Autism Services	School Holiday Program	\$1650
Brentwood Park Kindergarten Playgroup	Brentwood Park Kindergarten Playgroup - Equipment upgrade	\$500
Church of Christ Ringwood Inc	Little Stars Playgroup Portable Play Equipment	\$500
Croydon Hills Baptist Church	Croydon Hills Additional Needs Mainly Music Program (Fri 10 - 12)	\$348
Heathmont/Ringwood District Guides	Building Body Confidence	\$450
'Maroondah' Safety House Association of Victoria Committee	Safety House Association Committee	\$1000
Uniting Care Ringwood Biala	Exceptional funding for support to secure the long term sustainability of service.	\$10000
BaBs - Birthing and Babies Support	Birth and Babies Support (BaBs) Outer Eastern BaBs - Croydon	\$750
Brushy Creek Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Support Group	Brushy Creek Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Support Group	\$750

DIRECTOR COMMUNITY & LEISURE SERVICES - HELEN CROXFORD**COMMUNITY GRANTS FUNDING PROGRAM 2008/2009****ITEM 2****YOUTH**

Name	Name of Project	Amount Recommended
Bor Community Association of Australia Incorporation BCAA Inc	Bor Youth Program	\$4000
Harrison Community Services	Celebrating Youth Day	\$676

LEISURE

Name	Name of Project	Amount Recommended
Eastern Recreation & Leisure Services Inc	Inclusive Sport and Recreation Education Program	\$850
Maroondah Hospital	Venue Safety & Traffic Management - 2008 'Maroondah Steps Up' Run/Walk	\$2000
Mullum Mullum Festival Inc	12th Mullum Mullum Festival	\$1700
Ringwood Eisteddfod Inc	Ringwood Eisteddfod 2009	\$2500
Ringwood Spiders Football Team	Ringwood Spiders	\$2000
St Stephen's Community Living Centre	Be Active - Enjoy Life More & Strength Training	\$426
Ringwood Professional Athletic Club	City of Maroondah 'Gift' Athletic Carnival	\$1000

ARTS AND CULTURE

Name	Name of Project	Amount Recommended
Eastern Access Community Health (EACH)	The Artful Lodger Mosaic Project	\$2950
Yarrunga Community Centre	Beneath Tall Trees	\$2150
ParaQuad Victoria	Artist in Residence: Jamie Daddo	\$1530
Chiquitines Dance Group	Caring artists with no frontiers	\$2500
Eastern Karen Community Association of Victoria	Karen Community Youth Group Art Project	\$2200
Glen Park Community Centre Inc	The Fabric of Bayswater North	\$2000
Maroondah Southern Sudanese Christian Welfare Association Inc.	Traditional African Sudanese Beading Costumes for Adult Dancers	\$2475

**AMENDMENT C65 – SIGNAGE ON COUNCIL
RESERVES - PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION**

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

To consider the recommendations of the Independent Panel report on Maroondah Planning Scheme Amendment C65, to adopt the revised Amendment and to forward the adopted Amendment to the Minister for Planning for approval.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained within the Council Plan, 2008-2012, provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose and recommendations of this report:

Leisure and Culture

Strategic Objective – ‘Maroondah will ensure maximum opportunities for choice, involvement in and access to quality culture and leisure experiences’.

Strategy 1 – ‘Provide and promote accessible, affordable, flexible, and where appropriate, integrated multipurpose facilities and services, catering for the current and changing needs of the community’.

Natural Environment:

Strategic Objective – ‘Maroondah will advocate for and provide a sustainable environment that enriches the community’s quality of life by conserving and actively managing and enhancing our natural environment through innovative approaches and education, whilst acknowledging the challenges of climate change’.

Strategy 2 – ‘Plan, maintain, protect and enhance Maroondah’s open spaces and natural environment’.

Urban Design and Development:

Strategic Objective – ‘Maroondah will foster the development of distinct urban forms with a variety of land uses, visual designs and housing types that offer an attractive and safe environment, value the municipality’s diverse heritage and assist in creating the community’s sense of place’.

Strategy 1 – ‘Utilise good design principles including community safety and sustainability to enhance the development of a sense of community through the integration of the built and natural environment’.

Strategy 2 – ‘Develop and implement an urban form that recognises and incorporates the heritage, culture and neighbourhood character of Maroondah and builds on existing private and public infrastructure’.

**AMENDMENT C65 – SIGNAGE ON COUNCIL
RESERVES - PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION**

ITEM 1

BACKGROUND

There are a number of Council Reserves that provide a 'home ground' for organised team sports. These sports include football, cricket, soccer, lawn bowls and tennis.

Whilst the sporting groups operate from a community facility, there is traditionally a low profile local business sponsorship component associated with local sporting clubs.

The current planning provisions for Council Reserves prohibits the majority of signage, including sponsorship signage.

Amendment C65 proposes to amend the advertising Signage Category for 20 Council Reserves, containing active and organised sporting groups, from Category 4 to Category 3. This change will allow Council discretion to consider sponsorship signage in appropriate locations on Council Reserves.

The amendment was exhibited from 31 January 2008 to 3 March 2008. Eight submissions were received objecting to the amendment. At its Council Meeting on 21 April, Council resolved to request the Minister for Planning to appoint an Independent Panel to consider submissions received to Amendment C65.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Panel hearing was held on 23 July 2008. Ms. Susan Bailey, Mr. Stephen Hickman and Ms. Liz Sanzaro presented their respective submissions. The Panel Report addressed the submissions and the following issues.

The Appropriateness of Advertising Signage on Council Reserves

Several submissions objected to the concept of advertising signage on Council Reserves, stating how it is in contrast with the natural setting of the reserves. They also cited statements from existing State and Local Planning Policy in support of their argument.

Panel Response

The Panel has concluded that the current Category 4 classification of the reserves has not produced good outcomes. The practice of community-based sporting clubs earning income through advertising signage is so widespread throughout Maroondah City and in many other municipalities that it has become accepted, and widely considered to be desirable (subject, of course, to good design, location and maintenance). Maroondah City Council has submitted that it wishes to enable this form of support to the clubs, and the Panel does not wish to undermine this.

Council Comment

Whilst the sporting groups operate from a community facility, there is traditionally a low profile local business sponsorship component associated with local sporting clubs. The current planning provisions for the Council Reserves prohibit the majority of signage, including sponsorship signage.

**AMENDMENT C65 – SIGNAGE ON COUNCIL
RESERVES - PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION**

ITEM 1

It is proposed to amend the advertising Signage Category for Council Reserves, containing active and organised sporting groups, from Category 4 to Category 3. This change will allow Council discretion to consider sponsorship signage in appropriate locations on Council Reserves.

Enforcement of Planning Controls

The submissions also raised the concern of residents that enforcement is an issue, whether for current or proposed policy, citing that some Football Clubs currently have illegally placed signage that is clearly visible from outside the reserve. Residents have raised this issue with Council multiple times, yet nothing has been done.

Panel Response

The blanket ban represented by the current Category 4 classification in the PPRZ has not been effective in achieving support for community clubs and protecting amenity in Maroondah City – the actions of the clubs have not been consistent with the Planning Scheme, the Council has not been willing or able to enforce the PPRZ requirements, and some residents are understandably concerned by the unattractive signage that has appeared.

The Panel has accepted Maroondah City Council's preference to allow some advertising signage on reserves, but only if controls are in place to protect (and preferably to enhance) the amenity of the reserves. If some signage is to be permitted, the most appropriate solution in the Victorian Planning Provisions appears to be this Amendment's proposed solution, which includes the requirement for a permit, and clear guidelines about what is acceptable.

Council Comment

Council has been awaiting the outcome of this amendment process prior to undertaking any enforcement action to remove unauthorized signage in Council reserves.

The inclusion of Cheong Park

Several submitters have objected to the inclusion of Cheong Park on the list of Council reserves to be affected by the Amendment. They stated that it was a gift to the residents in the area from the Cheong Family as well as that the area was recently added to the Schedule 2 Neighbourhood Character Overlay under Stage 2 of the Maroondah Heritage Study, and that therefore should be protected from unnecessary advertising material.

Panel Response

The Panel concluded that the implementation of Amendment C65 is more likely to protect and enhance the amenity of Maroondah City's reserves than the current controls. In this case, the Amendment should apply to Cheong Park as well as other reserves.

**AMENDMENT C65 – SIGNAGE ON COUNCIL
RESERVES - PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION**

ITEM 1

However, the Cheong Park submitters have emphasised the importance of a set of controls that are not of a “one size fits all” nature. The guidelines outlined in the local policy must be clear in ensuring that applications are assessed in terms of the special characteristics of each of the reserves.

The Panel has therefore not provided any recommendations that are specific to Cheong Park. This does not mean that it rejected the arguments of the submitters that the Cheong Park area is of special significance; rather, the Panel considers that the special character is more likely to be protected with the proposed controls than with the current regime of controls.

Council Comment

The inclusion of Cheong Park is appropriate as Cheong Park provides a high order active sporting venue. As such planning discretion to allow a limited amount of sponsorship signage is an equitable balance between expectations of the clubs using the facility and other community groups and local residents.

Temporary, “Match-day” Signage

Several submissions argued that temporary “match-day” signage was acceptable, if it was erected on match days and then removed at the end of each day’s play. They stated that the amendment makes no mention of temporary signage and that it is presumed that the approved advertising signage will be permanent.

The submitters at the Panel Hearing reiterated this view that temporary “match-day” signage was more acceptable than permanent or seasonal signage, and that the guidelines for this form of signage could be significantly more flexible.

Panel Response

The issue of temporary “match-day” signage is a significant one. There is less opposition to this form of signage, which is more widely accepted as a part of the normal conduct of sporting activities. Nevertheless, “match-day” signage is also not possible if the Category 4 classification is to be retained, so a change is necessary if it is to be encouraged.

The Panel has concluded that there should be more flexible guidelines for “match-day” signage than more permanent signage. At the hearings, Maroondah City Council argued that the guidelines should be the same, but that permit applications could be considered on their merits, with more flexibility for temporary signage. The Panel was not convinced by this, and preferred clarity so that applicants would have a better understanding of what is acceptable for match days, and the tighter requirements for more permanent signage.

Council Comment

Match day signage represents an appropriate and preferred solution to the majority of the issues around signage in Council reserves. Match day signage by definition is linked directly to the activity occurring at the venue and can be targeted to those attending the sporting event.

**AMENDMENT C65 – SIGNAGE ON COUNCIL
RESERVES - PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION**

ITEM 1

It also provides for much greater equity in the allocation of advertising space at reserves, particularly between seasonal users of facilities such as cricket and football clubs.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Whilst sporting groups operate from a community facility, there is traditionally a low profile local business sponsorship component associated with local sporting clubs. The proposed amendment would allow Council discretion to consider the provision of sponsorship signage in appropriate locations on Council Reserves.

The costs associated with the preparation of this amendment will be met through the 2008/2009 Council budget.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

The amendment will improve the amenity and appearance of the natural and built environment on Council Reserves. The requirement for planning approval for sponsorship signage will ensure the protection of the amenity of nearby residents and that any signage complements the role of the reserve, not detracting from the quality urban environment of Maroondah.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Social benefits that could potentially be provided to the community include assisting and maintaining community values and expectations on Council Reserves. An overall community benefit would be provided through supporting appropriate sponsorship activities of local sporting clubs and organisations, while continuing to meet the broader recreational needs of all members of the community.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation has been undertaken pursuant to the Planning and Environment Act 1987. With the conclusion of the panel process there are no further opportunities for community consultation.

CONCLUSION

The Panel supports a modified version of the Amendment and recommends that Council adopt the Amendment in accordance with the following modifications:

- New statements encouraging temporary “match-day” signage as the preferred type of signage, to be inserted into the objectives, policy and application requirements sections of the exhibited policy; and
- Minor revisions of Plan 1 of the exhibited policy to account for the diverse layouts of Council’s sporting grounds.

**AMENDMENT C65 – SIGNAGE ON COUNCIL
RESERVES - PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION**

ITEM 1

In view of the supportive Panel Report, it is appropriate for Council to adopt Amendment C65 to the Maroondah Planning Scheme with the modifications as recommended in the Panel Report and forwarded to the Minister for Planning for approval.

CONFIDENTIALITY

There are no confidentiality issues associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL:

- 1. ADOPTS THE REVISED MAROONDAH PLANNING SCHEME AMENDMENT C65 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PANEL REPORT;**
- 2. FORWARDS THE AMENDMENT TO THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING FOR APPROVAL.**
- 3. NOTIFIES ALL SUBMITTERS OF THE ADOPTION OF THE REVISED AMENDMENT.**

2008/09 BUSINESS GROUP GRANTS PROGRAM

ITEM 2

PURPOSE

To seek Council endorsement for the allocation of financial assistance, through the Business Group Grants program, to nominated business groups/networks for the 2008/2009 financial year.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in the Council Plan 2008-2012 provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose and recommendations in this report:

Strategic Objectives: Foster the sustainability and growth of local business through the active involvement and promotion of a vigorous business community.

Encourage and support local employment opportunities.

The principles of this program are also reiterated as key recommendations of the 'Maroondah Economic Strategy 2007-2010'. Namely to:

- Develop local networks and work in partnership with existing networks / programs to implement programs, training sessions and networking opportunities which are beneficial to the local economy.
- Assist Local Centres to form Trader Associations and improve their co-ordination and promotion of their Centre.

BACKGROUND

The Maroondah Business Group Grants Program was developed to provide a co-ordinated means of providing financial assistance to local, not-for-profit business groups to deliver programs, projects and initiatives that enhance business groups and networks in the municipality.

The Business Group Grants Program aims to:

- Enhance the ability of local Business Groups and Networks to meet the needs of their members and provide important, innovative projects and programs.
- Foster partnerships between local business and community groups, Council and other agencies.
- Improve business practices by enhancing the knowledge and skill base of local business operators.
- Provide assistance to relevant groups to develop plans for the future growth and development of their Centre/Group.
- Increase awareness of the services provided by local business support agencies.
- Provide assistance to create additional networks or groups.

The 2008/09 Business Group Grants program was publicly advertised throughout June 2008, and applications closed on Tuesday 8th July. Council received 5 applications with a total request of \$25,000.

2008/09 BUSINESS GROUP GRANTS PROGRAM

ITEM 2

Council Officers from the Economic Development Unit reviewed all applications and made recommendations on submissions with respect to eligibility and the extent to which the project/program addressed key criteria as outlined in the program guidelines. All applications were then formally assessed at a meeting comprising all Councillors.

A summary sheet of successful applications received is detailed in Schedule 1 on Page 21.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

All successful applicants for the 2008/2009 Business Group Grants Program will be required to enter into service agreements with Council. The service agreements detail specific responsibilities and obligations of both the funded group and Council.

All successful applicants will also be required to work with Council Officers to determine clear measurable outcomes for their project and develop a timeline outlining key milestones to be achieved.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The program guidelines state that a maximum grant of \$5,000 is available for eligible groups.

The budget for the 2008/2009 Business Group Grants Program is \$25,000.

Recommendations for the 2008/2009 program will provide funding for 4 local Associations/groups, with \$20,000 of the total program budget being allocated.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not Applicable.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

This program will provide local groups with access to funds that will improve their overall business operations, and encourage partnerships between groups/centres and the local community which will ultimately lead to improved business performance and greater local employment opportunities.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Business Group Grants Program was widely promoted through Public Notices placed in both local newspapers and a mail out to all known local eligible groups. An information session was also held on the 10th June, with some groups also choosing to meet individually with Council Officers to discuss the guidelines and clarify any questions relevant to their proposed initiative.

2008/09 BUSINESS GROUP GRANTS PROGRAM

ITEM 2

CONCLUSION

The applications recommended for funding as part of the 2008/2009 Business Group Grants Program are detailed in Schedule 1 (refer page 21).

All applicants will be informed in writing of the outcome of their application. Where possible, alternative funding options and other forms of assistance will be suggested to unsuccessful groups.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL:

- 4. APPROVES THE RECOMMENDED SUBMISSIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE 2008/2009 BUSINESS GROUP GRANTS PROGRAM TOTALLING \$20,000 AS NOMINATED BY COUNCIL AND OUTLINED IN THE SCHEDULE ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT.**
- 5. APPROVES THESE GRANTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SIGNED FUNDING AND SERVICE AGREEMENT.**
- 3. ADVISES ALL ORGANISATIONS OF THE OUTCOME OF THEIR GRANT APPLICATION.**

2008/09 BUSINESS GROUP GRANTS PROGRAM

ITEM 2

SCHEDULE 1

Group/Association	Project Name	Amount Recommended
Croydon Main St. Traders Assoc.	Free Family Christmas and Community Event	\$5,000
Maroondah Business Group	Empowering Education	\$5,000
Ringwood Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Business – Local to Local	\$5,000
Metropolitan Traffic Education Centre Inc. (METEC)	Burmese “L” Drivers	\$5,000

Total number of applications	5
Total amount requested	\$ 25,000
Total funds available	\$ 25,000
Total number of funded applicants	4
Total amount recommended	\$ 20,000

DELEGATES' REPORTS

ITEM 1

PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for Councillors to report on those Committees to which they were formally appointed at the meeting of Council held on 10 December 2007.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

The following directions contained in the Council Plan 2008-2012 provide the strategic framework that underpins the purpose and recommendation in this report:

Strategic Objective – Maroondah will underpin its services to the community with the principles and practice of good governance, sustainable and responsible financial management, participative decision making processes and an organisational culture that highly values its partners, citizens, employees and customers.

Strategy 3 – Ensure open, accessible and accountable local government provided through the application of good governance practices and utilising appropriate human and physical resources.

BACKGROUND

Not Applicable

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

It is intended that the Mayor and Councillors be given the opportunity to present a verbal or written report to the open meeting of Council, updating Council on the actions of such a Board or Organisation.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Not Applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not Applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not Applicable

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

CONCLUSION

Council is represented on numerous Boards and Organisations and it is important that Council and the Community be advised of the actions and activities of same.

DELEGATES' REPORTS

ITEM 1

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES AND NOTES THE DELEGATES' REPORTS AS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLORS.

**NON-FINANCIAL COMPONENT OF THE ANNUAL
REPORT 2007-2008**

ITEM 2

PURPOSE

To provide Council with information regarding the development of the non-financial component of the Annual Report 2007-2008 and to seek Council endorsement of this component for the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2008 prior to submission to the Minister.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Maroondah meets all its statutory obligations for its Annual Report under the Local Government Act 1989 and also provides a comprehensive report on Council operations to meet its commitment of open, responsive and consultative government. Maroondah strives to be a leader in local government reporting.

The Annual Report is Council's highest-level comprehensive report to the community outlining how the Council has met its annual objectives as articulated in the proceeding years Council Plan and Budget. These objectives are yearly points in time, which are derived from Maroondah 2025: A Community Planning Together and Council's long-term financial plan.

The central objective of the 2007-2008 Annual Report is to inform the Maroondah community and stakeholders of Council's performance in 2007-2008 against the objectives and priorities outlined in the 2007 – 2011 Council Plan.

The report is linked to each of the seven thematic areas of Council operation. Each thematic area is given a thorough report with indicators and a report against Council priorities.

It is intended that the final Annual Report including both the non-financial and financial components be submitted to the Minister of Local Government by the end of September, as prescribed by the Local Government Act 1989.

BACKGROUND

Under Section 131 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council is required to submit an Annual Report to the Minister within three months of the end of each financial year. The report must be made available for public inspection after it has been sent to the Minister. The Annual Report contains audited performance, standard and financial statements as well as meeting other statutory requirements. Council's Audit Advisory Committee recommended to Council that the Financial and Performance Statements be adopted in principle. Council at its meeting on 18 August 2008 adopted the Financial Statements which were then forwarded to the Victorian Auditor-General.

Key features of the non-financial component of the Annual Report (which has been separately circulated to Councillors) include:

- Mayor and Chief Executive Officer's Message;
- Municipal profile;

**NON-FINANCIAL COMPONENT OF THE ANNUAL
REPORT 2007-2008**

ITEM 2

- Organisational Structure
- Human Resources; and
- Performance against goals and budget.

For the purposes of Section 134(2)(a) of the Act, Council will advertise the availability of the Annual Report and list the report for the Council Meeting on October 20.

Council Officers will arrange for suitable publication and distribution of the Annual Report to all relevant stakeholders after October 20, 2008.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Report on Operations

Major achievements and activities against the key themes identified in the Council Plan during 2007-2008 year included:

Community

- The Community Guide is available, online for viewing and updating on Council's website and contains details of over 800 community groups
- Our Environmental Health unit in addition to conducting Food Handling Safety training for the public produced and distributed a quarterly newsletter to approximately 1,000 registered health premise covering a wide range of current health issues and safety tips
- A number of youth consultations were undertaken with feedback resulting in the commencement of a My Space web page for youth in Maroondah
- Council's Meals on Wheels service is prepared over 60,000 meals from the Karralyka Centre kitchen
- Council has established a strategic partnership group and project steering group to identify initiatives for completion in year 2 of the Bayswater North Community Renewal project
- Over \$252,000 was distributed to the community in the form of community Grants
- A range of grants, programs and special events to celebrate community participation were held in 2007/08 including community Safety Week, Reconciliation Week, Maroondah Festival, National Youth Week and a young Leaders Program

Economic Development and Employment

- Seven corporate sponsors supported the Recognising Business Excellence Awards and the Awards Dinner with 21 nominees across seven award categories
- Five Business Breakfasts were held during the year with an average of 100 attendees
- Council coordinated and provided 576 hours of training to local businesses throughout the year with 272 participants
- Each of the Chambers of Commerce received a grant of \$10,000 annually, while the Business Groups Grants program saw eight groups received grants totalling \$20,000

**NON-FINANCIAL COMPONENT OF THE ANNUAL
REPORT 2007-2008**

ITEM 2

Leisure and Culture

- The new \$12 million Croydon Aquatic Facility will integrate with the existing Croydon Leisure Centre. Council received \$2.5 million funding from the State Government Sport and Recreation Victoria 'Better Pools' program to assist with this development
- The \$150,000 renewal of the playground equipment at the Canterbury Gardens reserve was completed
- Karralyka hosted events for 59 local community groups, schools and non-profit organisations
- Stage two of the Grayswood Reserve Master Plan was implemented with the upgrade of the play equipment paths and landscaping

Natural Environment

- The Sustainable Water action plan included \$1 million dollars allocated to water sustainability measures estimated to save 24 megalitres of water per annum
- Council received a Community Milestone 2 and 3 Award from the Local Environmental Initiatives – Local Governments for Sustainability for its successful achievement of milestones 2 and 3 of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Water Campaign
- As a member of GreenFleet, Council's entire passenger fleet of vehicles are carbon neutral, with CO2 emissions offset by GreenFleet's tree planting program
- Major works included a \$300,000 water sustainability make-over of Griff Hunt Reserve, planting of warm weather grasses on four other reserves and \$150,000 construction of the Arrabri Community Playspace
- Maroondah was ranked third in the state for its percentage of household recycling by Sustainability Victoria

Transport

- The successful completion of the EastLink project will provide additional profile to Ringwood as a transit city
- Council received \$1.043 million in grants from the Department of Transport as part of a program to upgrade existing bus shelter facilities across Maroondah
- Council continues to participate in the regional advocacy program for improvement to the public transport network via the Eastern Transport Coalition
- Council continues to advocate and submit funding applications for completion of the Principal Bicycle Network within Maroondah and has liaised with VicRoads for the ongoing implementation of bike paths on major roads including Mt Dandenong and Bedford Roads
- Council continues to advocate for as well as participate in and support public awareness campaigns for sustainable modes of transport and alternatives to private vehicle use

Urban Design and Development

- The Ringwood Transit City Advisory Committee was established to guide and advise on the implementation of the Ringwood Town Centre Urban Design Masterplan
- Stage 2 of the Maroondah Heritage Study was completed in conjunction with Heritage Victoria and involved the identification and approval of additional properties for protection under the Maroondah Planning Scheme

**NON-FINANCIAL COMPONENT OF THE ANNUAL
REPORT 2007-2008**

ITEM 2

- A draft Special Charge Scheme has been developed prioritising the upgrade of existing unconstructed roads
- An Essential Services Program of public building has been developed and implemented, including a three way partnership between Council, the CFA and the MFB

Governance and Corporate Support

- The Maroondah Workforce Strategy has been developed and endorsed incorporating attraction and retention initiatives, staff training and development and health needs
- A specification of Council's Electronic Document Management System needs was developed and put out to public tender
- Council undertook a \$23 million Capital Works program during the 2007/2008 period, a large focus of the works was water and asset sustainability
- The State Emergency Service undertook an audit of Council's Emergency Management Plan during 2007/2008 and assessed the plan as fully compliant

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

The cost of printing the 2007-2008 Annual Report is met within the current budget. Maroondah has moved away from printing large numbers of documents to save paper and costs. A relatively small number of Annual Reports are now printed on recycled stock to meet statutory, administrative and community needs. The document will be on the Maroondah Council web page for downloading from Monday 22 September 2008.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

These are articulated in the Annual Report.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

These are also articulated in the Annual Report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Under Section 134 of the Act, Council must give public notice that the:

- Annual Report has been prepared; and
- place from which copies of the annual report can be obtained before the meeting on October 20 2008.

In accordance with these provisions of the Act, a Public Notice will be published in The Age newspaper on Saturday 20 September 2008 and in the Maroondah Journal and Leader newspapers on Tuesday 23 September 2008.

Copies of the endorsed Annual Report will be made available for inspection at the City Offices, Council's Customer Service Centres, Ringwood Library, Croydon Library and Council's website from Monday 22 September 2008.

**NON-FINANCIAL COMPONENT OF THE ANNUAL
REPORT 2007-2008**

ITEM 2

CONCLUSION

The Annual Report 2007 – 2008 confirms that Council has made significant advances towards achieving the community's strategic vision in terms of community service, environmental enhancement, economic development, infrastructure development and civic administration and leadership, in addition to its obligations under Section 131 of the Local Government Act 1989.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

- 1. ENDORSES THE NON-FINANCIAL COMPONENT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008.**
- 2. FORWARDS A COPY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT IN ITS ENTIRITY TO THE MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AS REQUIRED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989.**
- 3. LISTS THE ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008 AT A MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 20 2008 FOLLOWING THE STATUTORY PUBLIC NOTICE, REQUIRED AS PER SECTION 134 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989, IN REGARDS TO THE PREPARATION AND AVAILABILITY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008.**

**MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE
COUNCIL MEETING – MAROONDAH MOTIONS**

ITEM 3

PURPOSE

To consider three motions for submission to the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting to be held on Thursday 16 October 2008.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Council's vision is to be a vibrant city with an active community, a strong local economy and a diverse cultural life in a prosperous and sustainable environment as articulated in Council's 2008-2012 Council Plan. A significant component of achieving this vision is to advocate to State and Federal Governments regarding the needs and aspirations of the Maroondah Community.

Currently Maroondah views the issues of safety, consistency in the application of WorkSafe requirements and support for community transport as significant issues requiring advocacy through the MAV in order to raise their profile and seek action from other levels of government. Most of these issues have had significant community input through various consultation processes.

Transport

As articulated in the Council Plan, Maroondah will facilitate the safe, effective and efficient movement of people and goods using all appropriate modes of transport in a manner, which addresses the community's social, environmental and economic values. The key issue is Safety.

Community

As articulated in the Council Plan, Maroondah will have a network of agencies committed to the provision of a comprehensive range of high quality, accessible and cost effective services and facilities that meet community needs, promote community wellbeing and respect individual dignity. The key issue is that of mobility.

Urban Design and Development

As articulated in the Council Plan, Maroondah will foster the development of distinct urban forms with a variety of land uses, visual designs and houses type that offer an attractive and safe environment, value the municipality's diverse heritage and assist in creating the community's sense of place.

Governance

As articulated in the Council Plan, Maroondah will underpin its services to the community with the principles and practice of good governance, sustainable and responsible financial management, participative decision making processes and an organisational culture that highly values its partners, citizens, employees and customers.

**MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE
COUNCIL MEETING – MAROONDAH MOTIONS**

ITEM 3

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting will be held on Friday 16 October 2008. The three proposed motions are seen as important for debate and consideration by the State Council Meeting as they are of significance on the State level for all Victorian municipalities.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The rationale for each motion is identified below:

- **Community Transport**

The Victorian State government does not recognise community transport as a funded activity and as such there is no overall ownership of community based transport services by any government department.

An illustration of community transport is provided by Eastern Volunteers, an accredited HACC provider that provides volunteer assisted transport services for people living in the municipalities of Maroondah, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges. These services are delivered by a team of 60 volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles or prefer to drive the five operational vehicles owned by Eastern Volunteers.

In past years, the State government via the Department of Human Services did provide assistance to selected agencies in the form of an occasional vehicle and capital replacement funding to support the HACC program. However, over recent years this assistance has ceased.

While the delivery of HACC and Disability services implies the provision of community transport, funding is distributed on a unit cost basis with no specific mention of funding for transport services. The program is restricted to people who are frail aged and/or have a disability and is technically not available for medical appointments.

Apart from the Transport Connections Project, which is primarily funded to assist with the facilitation of access to transport rather than direct transport provision, there is no clearly identifiable funding stream for community transport in Victoria. Even under this program the emphasis is placed on the better utilisation of existing transport services rather than the introduction of new recurrently funded services.

Community transport is currently funded from a wide range of sources including users (usually by voluntary donation), Home and Community Care and Disability Services as mentioned above, Local Government, community fund-raising, volunteer effort and sponsorship.

Some people, particularly the frail aged and people who have significant disabilities, are unable to drive or use traditional public transport. For these people special services such as wheelchair accessible taxi's and community based transport assistance are critical.

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE
COUNCIL MEETING – MAROONDAH MOTIONS

ITEM 3

The mobility requirements of an aging population may also include greater demand for flexible and non-traditional transport services including community-based transport.

There are also other people in the community such as single mothers, older people who are not eligible under the HACC program and young people who live in isolation without access to a vehicle or any form of public transport. These people require support to travel for work and educational purposes, shopping etc.

The motion seeks to assist in alleviating problems of transport disadvantage.

- **Consistency in Decision Making – Reversing Waste Collection Vehicles**

WorkSafe established in October 2005 a requirement to minimise the risks associated with reversing waste collection vehicles yet there is an apparent inconsistency with decisions of VCAT in approving subdivisions that have no turning facilities for cul de sacs.

It is well documented that reversing vehicles pose an inherent risk within courts, hammerhead streets and straight dead ends, not only to property but also having caused fatalities. Indeed the introduction of the WorkSafe requirement **Waste collection – Reducing the risks of reversing vehicles** is a prudent and well thought out response to preventing these situations.

Councils are able to assist by assessing with contractors potential difficult streets and taking action, such as:-

- Timing of collections – avoiding school times;
- Bin placement options;
- Road layout; and
- Introduction of parking restrictions, etc

Despite all of the above it is a glaring inconsistency that VCAT continues to approve subdivisions where there is either insufficient or no turning facilities provided.

It should be noted that Maroondah City Council has been highly pro-active in the area of reversing vehicles to facilitate a safe environment for the community and is one of the leading Council's in this regard. Actions include:-

- Investigation of safety features on contractors vehicles;
- Alteration of bin collection times to avoid areas of potential higher risk at certain times eg schools, pre-schools, aged care facilities;
- Identified with contractor types of streets that have potential concerns eg courts;
- Identified where bin placements may be altered and liaised with residents to achieve this;
- Items referred to Capital Works Programme for funding of more comprehensive solutions for difficult access/turning streets;
- Engineering specialist firm contracted to provide advice on options including bin locations, signage; street turning works; and driveway strengthening; and
- Ongoing discussions to find solutions for new developments at the planning stage.

**MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE
COUNCIL MEETING – MAROONDAH MOTIONS**

ITEM 3

• **Tax Deductibility - Election Expenses**

The Australian Tax Office information states that "a deduction for local government body election expenses cannot exceed \$1,000 for each election contested..." The amount appears to be grossly inadequate given the cost of running as a candidate within an election far exceeds the quantum of the deduction and that the amount able to be claimed has remained almost permanently fixed at \$1,000.

This system is in stark contrast to the public funding of elections available to candidates for Commonwealth elections. A review of the ceiling amount is therefore highly appropriate.

The motion seeks to provide the opportunity for all potential candidates to stand at Council elections and not feel constrained from doing so due to the potential cost.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Refer to rationale as highlighted under Issue / Discussion.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Refer to rationale as highlighted under Issue / Discussion.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Refer to rationale as highlighted under Issue / Discussion..

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council, through various forums, consultations and strategies, has engaged the Maroondah community regarding these various issues. This report further demonstrates Council's preparedness to advocate to other spheres of government on behalf of Maroondah residents.

CONCLUSION

The 3 motions proposed have statewide significance throughout the Local Government sector and therefore should be discussed at the Municipal Association of Victoria State Council Meeting.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE
COUNCIL MEETING – MAROONDAH MOTIONS

ITEM 3

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL SUBMITS THE FOLLOWING 3 MOTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DEBATE AT THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE COUNCIL MEETING:

- COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Motion: THAT THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE COUNCIL ADVOCATES THAT THE VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT TAKES APPROPRIATE ACTION TO FORMALLY RECOGNISE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT AND IN DOING SO ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING STRATEGIES:

1. INCORPORATE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT INTO LEGISLATION, RECOGNISING THE DIVERSITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED;
2. ASSUME OWNERSHIP OF COMMUNITY TRANSPORT BY ESTABLISHING A UNIT WITHIN STATE GOVERNMENT TO MANAGE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SERVICE;
3. PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE RESOURCES BOTH FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL, TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF SERVICES AS WELL AS CONSISTENT, SAFE AND APPROPRIATE SERVICE STANDARDS; AND
4. ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION IS GIVEN TO THE IMPACT OF LEGISLATIVE CHANGES ON COMMUNITY TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANISATIONS.

- CONSISTENCY IN DECISION MAKING – REVERSING WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES

Motion: THAT THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE COUNCIL CALLS ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY BETWEEN DECISIONS OF VCAT AND WORKSAFE REQUIREMENTS REGARDING TURNING FACILITIES IN CUL DE SACS FOR REVERSING WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES.

- TAX DEDUCTIBILITY - ELECTION EXPENSES

Motion: THAT THE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA STATE COUNCIL WRITE TO THE AUSTRALIAN TAX OFFICE AUSTRALIAN TAX OFFICE SEEKING AN URGENT REVIEW OF THE CURRENT CEILING OF \$1,000 FOR ELECTION EXPENSES THAT CAN BE CLAIMED BY CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

**DRAINAGE RESERVE BETWEEN EXETER ROAD
AND PRIMROSE ROAD, CROYDON NORTH**

ITEM 4

PURPOSE

To commence the statutory processes prerequisite to the possible disposal of Council's drainage reserve running from Exeter Road to Primrose Road, Croydon North to the abutting owners.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

This item relates to Council's Plan 2008/12, Vision, Mission and Values as well as the governance and Corporate support theme which articulates as one of the strategies, 'Ensure open, accessible and accountable local government provided through the application of good governance practices and utilising appropriate human and physical resources.'

BACKGROUND

The aerial photographs on Council's geographic information system revealed the occupation by abutting owners of most of the drainage reserve running between Exeter Road and Primrose Road, Croydon North.

The reserve is in two (2) sections that are separated by Paterson Street. It has a total length of about 470 metres and is around 3 metres wide.

The only part of the reserve not occupied is a section approximately 130 metres long running north from Primrose Road to the southern boundary of 379-381 Maroondah Highway. Nine abutting property owners occupy the balance of the reserve.

Those properties are:

Maroondah Highway – Nos. 6/379-381; 7/379-381; 383-385; 387-389; & 2/391-393.
Paterson Street – Nos. 8-10; 9; & 12.
Exeter Road – No. 44

Note the portion occupied by Nos. 8-10 and 12 Paterson Street where the split is by half-length arrangement. No.12 occupies the front half and No.8-10 occupies the back half.

Refer to the plan at the Annexure on Page 37.

Council's land is described as a drainage reserve on Plan of Subdivision No.7325 and is contained in certificate of title Volume 9747, Folio 838. Council became proprietor of the reserve in November 1986. The reserve is in the Residential 1 Zone and for its entire length contains an operating Council drainage pipe that goes from 600 mm to 900 mm diameter.

The *Limitation of Actions Act* 1958 protects Council land from any claim of adverse possession.

**DRAINAGE RESERVE BETWEEN EXETER ROAD
AND PRIMROSE ROAD, CROYDON NORTH**

ITEM 4

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The unanimous opinion of Council's five (5) relevant service areas is to sell the land to the abutting/occupying owners.

The estimated value of the occupied land in its entirety is \$120,000.

Following is the individual estimate for each of the nine parcels:

6/379-381 Maroondah Highway	\$7,800
7/379-381 Maroondah Highway	\$7,600
383-385 Maroondah Highway	\$16,500
387-389 Maroondah Highway	\$17,600
391-393 Maroondah Highway	\$31,000
8-10 Paterson Street	\$5,500
12 Paterson Street	\$6,000
9 Paterson Street	\$13,000
44 Exeter Road	\$15,000

To date, the owners of 44 Exeter Road (a private residence) and 383-385 Maroondah Highway (an aged care facility) have offered to purchase the section of land they occupy.

The Uniting Church in Australia, owners of 387-389 Maroondah Highway, Croydon North advise that in the near future they intend building low to medium cost housing on the property as a community welfare project. They have asked if Council will therefore consider transferring the land to the Church as a donation or at a nominal value.

Were the land or any portion of it to be sold, an easement in Council's favour would be created over the land to provide Council with access rights to the drainage pipe.

Should any of the current occupiers refuse to purchase the land, their portion would be allocated to other abutting owners in accordance with Council's policy.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Council would be required by statute to use the funds from a sale of the reserve to acquire public open space of an equivalent area, as it was part of the open space requirement for the subdivision.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable

**DRAINAGE RESERVE BETWEEN EXETER ROAD
AND PRIMROSE ROAD, CROYDON NORTH**

ITEM 4

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Consultation pursuant to section 189 of the Local Government Act 1989 and Council's policy on Consultation Procedures for Statutory Notification is required prior to a decision to sell.

CONCLUSION

Council should sell the occupied land to the abutting owners.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

RECOMMENDATION

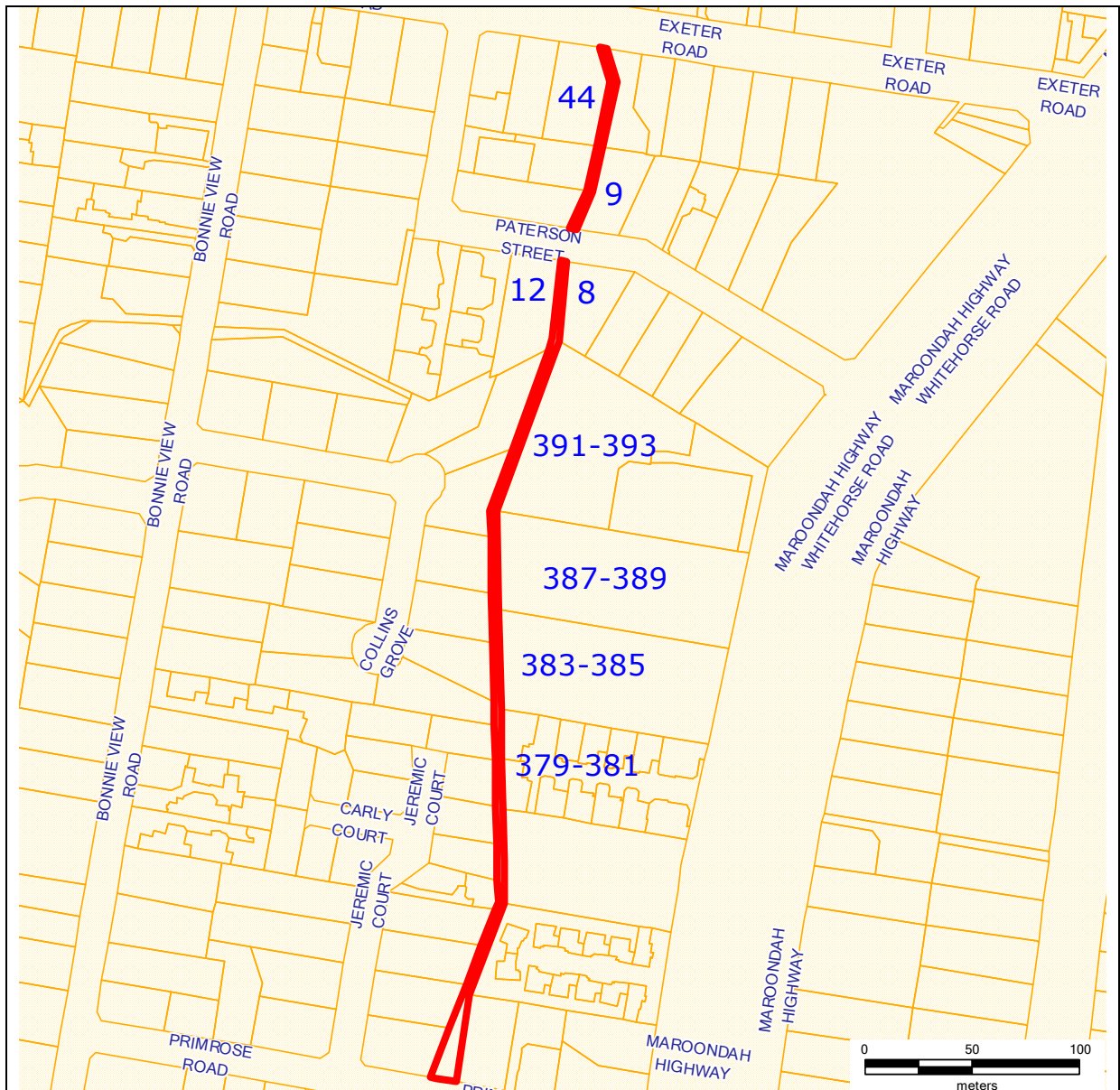
THAT COUNCIL, WITH RESPECT TO COUNCIL OWNED LAND BETWEEN EXETER ROAD AND PRIMROSE ROAD, CROYDON NORTH:

- 1. PREPARES A PLAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 24A OF THE SUBDIVISION ACT 1988 TO REMOVE THE RESERVATION STATUS FROM THE LAND;**
- 2. PREPARES A PLAN PURSUANT TO SECTION 35(8) OF THE SUBDIVISION ACT 1988, TO CREATE A TEN-LOT SUBDIVISION THAT REFLECTS THE CURRENT OCCUPATION TO EXCISE THE OCCUPIED LAND;**
- 3. GIVES PUBLIC NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 189 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1989 OF ITS INTENTION TO SELL THE OCCUPIED PARTS OF THE RESERVE BETWEEN EXETER ROAD AND PRIMROSE ROAD, CROYDON NORTH BY PRIVATE TREATY AT CURRENT MARKET VALUE PLUS COUNCIL'S COSTS TO THE ABUTTING OWNERS;**
- 4. IN THE ABSENCE OF THE RECEIPT OF AN OBJECTION TO THE SALE OF THE LAND, PROCEEDS TO SELL THE LAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLISHED NOTICE;**
- 5. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 223 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1989, CONSIDERS ANY WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AND HEARS ANY PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF THEIR SUBMISSION;**
- 6. FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS, WILL DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SELL THE LAND;**
- 7. SIGNS AND SEALS ALL DOCUMENTATION IN RELATION TO THE SALE OF THE LAND.**

**DRAINAGE RESERVE BETWEEN EXETER ROAD
AND PRIMROSE ROAD, CROYDON NORTH**

ITEM 4

**Annexure
Locality Plan, Exeter Road to Primrose Road Drainage Reserve**



DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

LETTERS UNDER SEAL

BACKGROUND

Council's attention has been drawn to service milestones of the following volunteers with Eastern Access Community Health.

Ms Marie Neil - 30 years service – Wednesday Activity Group
Mrs Brenda Bird - 30 years service – Wednesday Activity Group
Mr Alan Ambrose - 30 years service – Wednesday Activity Group
Mrs Valerie Caird - 31 years service – Wednesday Activity Group

The Wednesday Activity Group program provides social interaction and support for members of the community who are isolated for various reasons, including disability or frailty.

It is appropriate that Council recognises these milestones.

BACKGROUND

Council's attention has been drawn to the departure of Leading Senior Constable Linda Hancock, who has been re-assigned to Belgrave Police Station, which covers the Yarra Ranges Division. Linda has been working extensively in Maroondah for a number of years and has been involved with the Maroondah Partners in Health, Safety and Community Wellbeing Committee and Ringwood Community Reference Group. Linda has also been a tremendous resource for Council Officers.

It is appropriate that Council recognises Linda's service to the local community.

BACKGROUND

Council's attention has been drawn to the forthcoming 90th Anniversary celebrations of Maroondah Brass (formerly Ringwood City Band) and the outstanding dedication and commitment given by Mr Ron Moore who has undertaken the role of Music Director since November 1993.

It is appropriate that Council recognises the Anniversary celebrations and Ron's significant contribution over the past 15 years.

SECTION 173 AGREEMENT - 6 TIMMS AVENUE, CROYDON

BACKGROUND

Council issued planning permit M/2007/1004 for two (2) lot subdivision of an existing property known as 6 Timms Avenue, Croydon on 1 February 2008.

Condition 2 of the planning permit required the owner to enter into a Section 173 Agreement to provide for the following:

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance for the subdivision permitted under this permit, the Owner of the land must complete to floor level, the unit development that is proposed to be subdivided or, enter into, and register on title, an agreement with the Responsible Authority under Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, which among other things provides that:

- *except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, the development of any lot created by the subdivision of the land must be in accordance with the development authorised by planning permit M/2007/83 issued by Council and the various conditions included in that planning permit and the development depicted in the plans from time to time endorsed pursuant to that permit, or any such lot must not be developed with more than one dwelling house*
- *in determining whether or not to give its consent, the Responsible Authority may consider any proposal against the provisions of any relevant design guide for medium density housing ; and*
- *the cost of the preparation or review of the agreement and its registration on the title to the land must be borne by the owner of the land.*

The submitted agreement satisfies the provisions of the planning permit.

SECTION 173 AGREEMENT – 4 WARRUGA COURT, CROYDON

BACKGROUND

Council issued planning permit M/2007/435 for two (2) lot subdivision of an existing property known as 4 Warruga Court, Croydon on 3 December 2007.

Condition 2 of the planning permit required the owner to enter into a Section 173 Agreement to provide for the following:

Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance for the subdivision permitted under this permit, the Owner of the land must complete to floor level, the unit development that is proposed to be subdivided or, enter into, and register on title, an agreement with the Responsible Authority under Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, which among other things provides that:

- *except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, the development of any lot created by the subdivision of the land must be in accordance with the development authorised by planning permit M/2006/868 issued by Council and the various conditions included in that planning permit and the development depicted in the plans from time to time endorsed pursuant to that permit, or any such lot must not be developed with more than one dwelling house*
- *in determining whether or not to give its consent, the Responsible Authority may consider any proposal against the provisions of any relevant design guide for medium density housing ; and*

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

- *the cost of the preparation or review of the agreement and its registration on the title to the land must be borne by the owner of the land.*

The submitted agreement satisfies the provisions of the planning permit.

SECTION 173 AGREEMENT - 157 EASTFIELD ROAD, CROYDON

BACKGROUND

Council issued planning permit M/2007/52 for TWO (2) lot subdivision of an existing property known as 157 Eastfield Road, Croydon on 26 March 2007.

Condition 2 of the planning permit required the owner to enter into a Section 173 Agreement to provide for the following:

Prior to the issue of a Statement of Compliance for the subdivision permitted under this permit, the Owner of the land must complete to floor level, the unit development that is proposed to be subdivided or, enter into, and register on title, an agreement with the Responsible Authority under Section 173 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987, which among other things provides that:

- *except with the consent of the Responsible Authority, the development of any lot created by the subdivision of the land must be in accordance with the development authorised by planning permit M/2006/110 issued by Council and the various conditions included in that planning permit and the development depicted in the plans from time to time endorsed pursuant to that permit, or any such lot must not be developed with more than one dwelling house*
- *in determining whether or not to give its consent, the Responsible Authority may consider any proposal against the provisions of any relevant design guide for medium density housing ; and*
- *the cost of the preparation or review of the agreement and its registration on the title to the land must be borne by the owner of the land.*

The submitted agreement satisfies the provisions of the planning permit.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL SIGNS AND SEALS

- 1. LETTERS TO MS MARIE NEIL, MRS BRENDA BIRD, MR ALAN AMBROSE AND MRS VALERIE CAIRD, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR SERVICE AS VOLUNTEERS WITHIN MAROONDAH.**
- 2. A LETTER TO LEADING SENIOR CONSTABLE LINDA HANCOCK IN RECOGNITION OF HER COMMUNITY SERVICE WITHIN MAROONDAH.**

DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

3. **LETTERS TO THE MAROONDAH BRASS ACKNOWLEDGING ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY AND TO MR RON MOORE IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICE TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY OVER THE PAST 15 YEARS AS MUSICAL DIRECTOR.**
4. **THE SECTION 173 AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY RAELENE MARJORIE WARNER AND ROBERT ERIC WHEAREM IN RELATION TO LAND AT 6 TIMMS AVENUE, CROYDON.**
5. **THE SECTION 173 AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY SURECRAFT HOMES (VIC) PTY LTD IN RELATION TO LAND AT 4 WARRUGA COURT, CROYDON.**
6. **THE SECTION 173 AGREEMENT SUBMITTED BY PHILIP NOEL ADAMS IN RELATION TO LAND AT 157 EASTFIELD ROAD, CROYDON.**

PETITION - HEATHMONT VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE PARKING - HEATHMONT PHARMACY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to allow Council to receive a petition, containing 186 signatures, opposing loss of car parking spaces in front of the Heathmont Pharmacy, 160 Canterbury Road, Heathmont.

STRATEGIC / POLICY ISSUES

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND

A petition containing 186 signatures was received by Council on Thursday 11 September 2008.

The Prayer of the petition is as follows:

"We are opposed to changes to Heathmont car park, which would result in loss of car parking in front of Heathmont Pharmacy."

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Aspects of public parking in the Heathmont Village Shopping Centre have been of concern for traders, residents and Council for some time. In response to issues raised by the traders, Council has undertaken a number of measures to alleviate the concerns including installation of bollards, wheel stops, signage and line marking. Ongoing discussion with the traders group resulted in a draft concept looking at the potential of the redesign of existing traffic movements and parking alignments within the carpark area.

The draft concept was released for comment for ongoing review, at the completion of which, a further design was to be forwarded to traders for comment. This process has not been completed and the comments received in this petition will be considered as part of the ongoing consultation process and review of the concept plans.

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC ISSUES

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL / AMENITY ISSUES

Not applicable.

SOCIAL / COMMUNITY ISSUES

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Consultation with the traders group has been ongoing and will continue in the future.

**PETITION - HEATHMONT VILLAGE SHOPPING
CENTRE PARKING - HEATHMONT PHARMACY**

CONCLUSION

That the petition be forwarded to the Engineering Department for further investigation and further request to be tabled at a future Council meeting.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL:

- 3. RECEIVES AND NOTES THE PETITION CONTAINING 186 SIGNATURES;**
- 4. CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE AND CONSULT WITH THE TRADERS OF HEATHMONT VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTRE REGARDING THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE PETITION;**
- 5. MONITORS THE CURRENT TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS;**
- 6. PREPARES A FURTHER REPORT OF FINDINGS TO COUNCIL; AND**
- 7. ADVISES THE LEAD PETITIONER ACCORDINGLY.**