

Minutes

Special Committee of Council Meeting

**held in the
Waratah Room
Whitehorse Centre**

379 Whitehorse Road
Nunawading

on

Tuesday 11 March 2008

at 8:00 p.m.

Members: Cr John Koutras (Mayor), Cr Bill Bowie (Mayor & Chairperson),
Cr Peter Allan JP, Cr Chris Aubrey, Cr Robert Chong OAM,
Cr Hayley Clarke, Cr George Droutsas, Cr Sharon Ellis,
Cr Helen Harris OAM, Cr Ben Stennett

Ms Noelene Duff
Chief Executive Officer



Our Commitment to Whitehorse

As Councillors, we will commit to providing the City
with good government by:

- Engaging with the community
 - Reflecting community values and aspirations
 - Making decisions in a transparent manner
 - Making decisions in an efficient and timely manner
- Advocating and representing with dignity the interests of the community to other levels of government and to public and private agencies
- Reporting regularly to the community on its plans, actions and performance
 - Encouraging sustainability

As Councillors, we will commit to being:

Innovative • Inclusive • Caring • Open and Responsive • Honest in
leadership • Visionary

As a Council, we will promote high standards of performance, accountability and a culture based on strong values of excellence, respect, integrity and courage.



GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

OBJECTIVE

To enhance the consultative process and facilitate public participation and involvement of the community in Council decision making in accordance with Council's Corporate Plan strategies – good governance.

PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES

To facilitate public participation and involvement in meetings of the Special Committee. These Guidelines complement Council's Local Law No. 12 – Meeting Procedures and Common Seal.

PROVISION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public has two opportunities to participate in this meeting – either by a submission which may be heard at the start of the meeting, or if the item is on the agenda, immediately prior to consideration of the item, and by Public Comment later in the meeting. There is no public interjection during the meeting and speakers are heard in an orderly manner. When making a decision, Committee members will deliberate on the points made in the submission, whether or not they directly refer to them during discussion or debate. Where questions or issues arise which an individual Committee member may feel needs to be addressed, they have the opportunity to raise that point during debate or later in the meeting at the "Other Business" section, which is heard immediately before Public Comment.

Public Submissions:

A submission may be made on any matter, providing it is not in contravention of Council's Local Law No. 12 – Meeting Procedures and Common Seal.

A maximum of 10 speakers will be permitted to make a submission and they will be determined in order of registration.

No individual submission shall exceed three minutes.

Where submissions have been made, under the provisions of any statutory process, further submissions shall not be heard, unless the matter is listed as an item of business on the Special Committee of Council agenda.

Procedures for Public Submissions

Persons wishing to make a submission to the Special Committee on matters other than land planning matters must directly notify the Committee Clerk, Civic Services Department by 4pm on the day of the meeting and register to speak, by telephoning 9262-6337. The person who registers to speak shall be the person who will make the submission to the Special Committee.

Persons wishing to make a submission to the Special Committee on any land use planning matter must directly notify the Committee Clerk, Civic Services Department, at least five working days prior to the day of the meeting and register to speak by telephoning 9262-6337. The person who registers to speak, shall be the person who will make the submission to the Special Committee.

At the time of registering to speak, that person must indicate whether he or she will be speaking in support of or opposition to any planning permit application or Planning Scheme Amendment (or proposed planning permit application or proposed Planning Scheme Amendment). The Special Committee must not listen to or read anything said by that person unless it is satisfied that, at least four working days before the day of the Special Committee Meeting, a member of Council staff has contacted the person(s) whose interests are inimical to the person who has registered to speak (eg has contacted the planning permit applicant if the person who has registered to speak has indicated that he or she will speak in opposition to the grant of a planning permit application) and invited the first-mentioned person (or a person authorised by him or her) to also register by 4pm on the day of the meeting to attend the Special Committee Meeting and speak.

Persons wishing to table written material must provide 15 copies to the Committee Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting to enable distribution to Councillors prior to the start of the meeting. No material will be distributed during the meeting by any person, including Council staff.

Requests to speak will be registered strictly in the order of receipt. Speakers for topics not listed on the Special Committee Agenda for the meeting will be heard first, then speakers who wish to cover more than one topic (3 minutes in total, not 3 minutes per topic).

In instances where a number of persons wish to address the Special Committee on the same matter, the Chairperson at his or her discretion may request they nominate a speaker/speakers to represent them.

In accordance with Clause 48.5 of Local Law No. 12, Meeting Procedures and Common Seal, it is not necessary for Standing Orders to be suspended to allow a person to address the Special Committee, subject to compliance with these Guidelines.

Public Comment

After the "Other Business" Section of the meeting has concluded, the Mayor will invite members of the gallery to indicate by show of hands if they wish to make a comment. Only matters pertaining to this evening's meeting are to be commented on, and a 3 minute period per speaker applies. A maximum period of 15 minutes shall be provided for public comment. The Mayor will call individuals forward to be heard and they should begin by clearly stating their name. This is a period for comment, not questions or debate.

ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT OF THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines were adopted by resolution of Council dated 24 February 2003 and may be further amended by resolution of Council from time to time. The Chairperson at his or her discretion may vary procedures under these Guidelines, at any meeting of the Special Committee.

Meeting opened at 8.00pm

Present: Cr John Koutras, (Mayor & Chairperson), Cr Allan JP, Cr Aubrey, Cr Bowie,
Cr Chong OAM, Cr Clarke, Cr Droutsas, Cr Ellis, Cr Harris OAM, Cr Stennett

1 PRAYER

1a Prayer for Council

We give thanks, O God, for the Men and Women of the past whose generous devotion to the common good has been the making of our City.

Grant that our own generation may build worthily on the foundations they have laid.

Direct our minds that all we plan and determine, is for the wellbeing of our City.

Amen.

1b Aboriginal Reconciliation Statement

"In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Wurundjeri as the traditional owners of the land on which we are gathered."

2 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Mayor welcomed all.

APOLOGIES: Nil

3 DISCLOSURE OF (A) INTERESTS

None declared

(B) CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None declared

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Bowie

That the Minutes of the Special Committee of Council Meeting 11 February 2008 having been circulated now be confirmed.

CARRIED

5 PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Interested parties who wish to address the Special Committee of Council during the Public Submissions period of the Special Committee Meeting must register with the Civic Services Department by telephoning 9262 6337 by 4pm on the day of the meeting.

Persons speaking will be identified and recorded for Council Minutes and become part of a permanent record of the Council. Please indicate if you do not wish your name to be recorded.

Persons wishing to make a submission to the Special Committee on any land use planning matter must directly notify the Committee Clerk, Civic Services Department, at least five working days prior to the day of the meeting and register to speak by telephoning 9262-6337.

The following speakers were heard by the Special Committee of Council:

- 5.1 Doug Wait, Nunawading, spoke on Nunawading Mega Mile Major Activity Centre and Mitcham Neighbourhood Activity Centre Structure Plan.

- 5.2 Tony Hogg, Mitcham, spoke on Nunawading Mega Mile Major Activity Centre and Mitcham Neighbourhood Activity Centre Structure Plan.

After the Special Committee of Council has heard submissions:

The Mayor read the following statement:

Thank you for your submission. When giving consideration to their vote on the issue, Councillors will be considering what you have said, even though it may not be referred to in debate.

If during your submission, a Councillor feels a point you have raised requires further investigation, that Councillor may choose to raise it under Other Business, which is item 7 at the end of the agenda.

6 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

A five minute presentation was given by Leah McGuiness, Road Safety Officer

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| 6.1 | ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY UPDATE | 6 |
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7 OTHER BUSINESS

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

6.1 Road Safety Strategy Update

FILE NUMBER: SF06/277
ATTACHMENT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of the City of Whitehorse Road Safety Strategy 2006-2011. It is recommended that the report be noted.

BACKGROUND

Council adopted the City of Whitehorse Road Safety Strategy (RSS) in October 2006. The Strategy outlines actions that aim to reduce the number of deaths and injuries on roads in the City of Whitehorse. An emphasis is placed on coordinating efforts with Victoria Police, VicRoads, schools, and community groups, to maximise the effectiveness of road safety programs.

DISCUSSION

The number of people injured or killed in road crashes within the City of Whitehorse has reduced by 37% over the past 5 years.

| | Fatalities | Injuries | Total |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2002 | 4 | 694 | 698 |
| 2003 | 7 | 664 | 671 |
| 2004 | 0 | 594 | 594 |
| 2005 | 2 | 593 | 595 |
| 2006 | 3 | 437 | 440 |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>2982</i> | <i>2998</i> |
| <i>Reduction 2002 to 2006</i> | | | <i>37%</i> |

Source: VicRoads RCIS.

The major road safety programs and activities currently being conducted are listed below.

1. *Speed:* Council's 6 speed observation trailers were placed in 255 locations during 2007.
2. *School Programs:* A 'Safe Routes To School' program has commenced at St Luke's Primary School, Blackburn South.

The 'Walking School Bus' program continues to operate in 8 primary schools. There are currently 65 volunteers and more than 300 children participating.

'BikeEd' training has been provided to 28 teachers from a variety of primary and secondary schools.

A walk-a-thon was conducted for primary schools as part of 'Walktober' and 'Walk to School Day'.

The 'Fit to Drive' program was delivered at 2 secondary schools.

'Keys Please' sessions have been conducted at 8 secondary schools.

3. *Older Road Users:* Two 'Wiser Driver' courses and a 'Keeping Safe and Mobile' course have been conducted during 2007.

6.1

(cont)

4. *Fleet Safety:* A workshop was held for Council staff during Occupational Health and Safety Week. Council's Safer Driving Safer Cars program is currently being reviewed.
5. *Alcohol and Drugs:* Two 'Responsible Serving of Alcohol' courses were held for sporting clubs during 2007.
6. *Early Childhood:* Three child restraint fitting sessions have been conducted during 2007, fitting a total of 92 restraints.

Further details on the status of all actions within the RSS are attached.

CONSULTATION

Extensive consultation is undertaken in the delivery of the various programs contained in the Strategy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding is provided in the Engineering and Environmental Services Department Operational and Capital Works budgets for the implementation of the Road Safety Strategy.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved by Cr Bowie, Seconded by Cr Ellis

That Council note the actions taken in implementing the City of Whitehorse Road Safety Strategy.

CARRIED

7 OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Environmental Damage by Logging Activities

Moved by Cr Harris, Seconded by Cr Allan

That the City of Whitehorse recognises the environmental damage done to water catchments by logging activities, and supports the efforts of the Shire of Yarra Ranges to call a halt to logging in the catchments, particularly with regard to the Armstrong Creek area. That the Council makes representations to the Premier, the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Water, in relation to this issue.

CARRIED

7.2 LESS (Low Energy Supplies & Services) Program

Moved by Cr Harris, Seconded by Cr Ellis

That Council:

- 1. Investigate the LESS (Low Energy Supplies & Services) programme currently available to Victorian councils, which replaces household light globes with energy efficient globes, at no financial cost to residents or Council, the company claiming the carbon credits equivalent to the energy saved. That a report come back to Council within a month.***
- 2. Consider as part of this report, the impact of specific recycling of fluorescent globes/tubes to the new CMA recycling process. (see Melbourne Age 11/3/08).***

CARRIED

Attendance:

Cr Droustas left the Chambers at 8.50pm and returned at 8.51pm.

7.3 Reconciliation Process

Moved by Cr Ellis, Seconded by Cr Allan

That Council congratulates the Rudd Government's leadership in regards to reconciliation, by apologising to indigenous Australians on behalf of Australia. Furthermore, Council is strongly committed to continuing its work with the local community to assist the reconciliation process and strengthen the links and understanding between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

CARRIED

7.4 150 years of Australian Rules Football

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Bowie

That Council in recognition of 150 years of Australian Rules Football hold an appropriate function/event to commemorate this milestone.

CARRIED

7.5 Attendance Voting

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Aubrey

That Council for the 2008 Council Elections, in the interests of democracy and transparency, re-introduce attendance voting for Saturday 29 November 2008.

LOST

A Division Was Called

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| For | Against |
| Cr Allan | Cr Bowie |
| Cr Aubrey | Cr Chong |
| Cr Harris | Cr Clarke |
| | Cr Droutsas |
| | Cr Ellis |
| | Cr Koutras |
| | Cr Stennett |

On the results of the Division the motion was LOST

7.6 Whale Slaughter

Moved by Cr Allan, Seconded by Cr Bowie

That Council conduct an online petition through Council's website against the current whale slaughter by Japanese interests in the southern ocean and that results of that petition be circulated to interested parties such as the Prime Ministers of Australia and Japan, relevant Government Ministers, Opposition MP's, local MP's and other Government Departments as deemed appropriate.

CARRIED

Attendance:

Cr Ellis left the Chambers at 9.26pm and returned at 9.28pm.

Cr Droutsas left the Chambers at 9.27pm and returned at 9.28pm.

7.7 Ban of Bikes on Peak-hour Trains

Moved by Cr Clark, Seconded by Cr Harris

That Council support the Minister for Public Transport Lynne Kosky's decision to overturn the ban of bikes on peak-hour trains and calls on the Department of Infrastructure to install new bike cages at all premium stations within the City of Whitehorse.

CARRIED

7.8 Affordable Living Alliance – Campaign re Concessions for Low Income Victorians

Moved by Cr Chong, Seconded by Cr Aubrey

- 1. That the Whitehorse City Council is concerned at any proposals to cut concessions available to low income Victorians in the 2008-2009 State Budget. We therefore support the campaign by the Affordable Living Alliance to lobby the State Government to at least maintain and preferably extend these concessions.**

Further we:

- a. **Request the Mayor to send a letter to local Members of the State Government outlining our concerns and seeking meetings.**
 - b. **Request the Mayor send a copy of this letter to the Affordable Living Alliance and local community and service organizations who provide programs to low income residents.**
 - c. **Request the Mayor send any replies or correspondence from local Members of the State Government on this issue to the Affordable Living Alliance.**
 - d. **Support these concerns being outlined in the Mayor's Page (or similar) of the local newspaper(s) with links the Affordable Living Alliance website to be placed on the front page of our website, and**
 - e. **Issue a local Media Release outlining our concerns and attaching our letter to local State Government MP's.**
 - f. **Request the Mayor to forward any correspondence or media coverage of this issue to VCOSS, VLGA, MAV and ACOSS.**
- 2. Join the Affordable Housing Alliance.**

CARRIED

Attendance:

Cr Stennett left the Chambers at 9.49pm and returned at 9.51pm.
Cr Droutsas left the Chambers at 9.50pm and returned at 9.51pm.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons speaking will be identified and recorded for Council Minutes and become part of a permanent record of the Council. Please indicate if you do not wish your name to be recorded.

- 8.1 Mr Ken Weeks spoke on:
Road Safety Strategy in relation to speed zones and parking issues, and
Postal Voting at Council Elections
- 8.2 Ms Sharon Partridge spoke on the 2008 Council Election Proportional Representation voting method.

9 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Nil

10 CLOSE MEETING

Meeting closed at 10.06pm

Confirmed this 14th day of April 2008

CHAIRPERSON