

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
9 NOVEMBER 2009**

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<b>2</b>	<b>ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
<b>LOCATION/ADDRESS:</b>	<b>CITY OF PORT PHILLIP</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:</b>	<b>JOHN HICKS, GENERAL MANAGER CITY &amp; INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES</b>
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>DAVID ELSON, COORDINATOR ASSET PLANNING</b>
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	<b>78/20/08</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>ROAD MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 On 22 June 2009, council resolved to begin a statutory process for the review of its Road Management Plan. Following community and internal consultation, on 14 September 2009 council resolved to amend its Road Management Plan.
- 1.2 Since that time, the proposed amendment of council's Road Management Plan was advertised inviting community comment from interested parties.
- 1.3 No community comment was received.
- 1.4 This report asks council to adopt the amended Road Management Plan.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 2.1 Adopts the amended Road Management Plan.
- 2.2 Advertise the adoption of the amended Road Management Plan in the Government Gazette, in a daily newspaper generally circulating in the area and in a local paper.

**3. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 3.1 The intent of the Road Management Act 2004 is to introduce a coordinated management system for public roads that promotes safe and efficient state and local public road networks and the responsible use of road reserves for other legitimate purposes, such as the provision of utility infrastructure.
- 3.2 The Act gives road authorities a policy defence against public liability claims resulting from road condition, provided they develop and adopt a Road Management Plan. The Plan must detail how a road authority will manage and maintain its road assets and the relevant levels of service it will provide.
- 3.3 On 22 June 2009, council resolved to review its Road Management Plan in line with its statutory obligations. The review of the Road Management Plan was advertised in the Government Gazette on 9 July 2009, in The Age on 4 July 2009, and the Port Phillip Leader on 7 July 2009 to allow interested parties the opportunity to make a submission on the Plan. Copies of the Plan, the levels of service and the road register were made available from the Assist Centres at the three Town Halls as well as on council's website.
- 3.4 No external submissions were received by council on the review of the Plan but an internal working party of council officers found that while the Plan was still largely relevant, some parts required change. These included;
- 3.4.1 There was too much detail in the Plan.
- 3.4.2 Stating that the Levels of Service were not part of the Plan was inconsistent with the Road Management (General) Regulations.
- 3.4.3 References to arterial roads, accessibility, heritage, and the quantity of assets covered by the Plan were missing.
- 3.6 The review of the Plan highlighted seven areas where a change to the standards is proposed. These are;
- 3.5.1 Road pavement condition inspections reduced from annual to every three years in accordance with industry practice. Routine maintenance (defect or hazard) inspections remain at annual or shorter intervals depending on the location.
- 3.5.2 Kerb and channel condition inspections reduced from annual to every three years in accordance with industry practice. Routine maintenance (defect or hazard) inspections remain at annual or shorter intervals depending on the location.
- 3.5.3 Footpath condition inspections reduced from annual to every three years in accordance with industry practice. Routine maintenance (defect or hazard) inspections remain at annual or shorter intervals depending on the location.

- 3.5.4 Bridge condition inspections reduced from annual to every three years in accordance with industry practice. Routine maintenance (defect or hazard) inspections remain at six monthly intervals.
- 3.5.5 Laneway condition inspections reduced from annual to every three years in accordance with industry practice. Routine maintenance (defect or hazard) inspections remain at annual or shorter intervals depending on the location.
- 3.5.6 Street tree programmed maintenance in locations with high or low voltage power lines not on significant boulevards – reduced from an inspection every 2 years to every 2.5 years (governed by the Electric Line Clearance Act) to comply with the requirements in Council's Street Tree Maintenance contract.
- 3.5.7 Routine Inspections of Traffic Control Devices at Laneways annually rather than 6 monthly.
- 3.6 On 14 September 2009 council considered a report on the review of the Road Management Plan and resolved to advertise the proposed amendment to the Road Management Plan in the Government Gazette, in a newspaper circulating in the area and in a local paper, allowing a further 28 days for interested parties to make a submission.
- 3.7 Copies of the draft Plan were made available from the Assist Centres at the three Town Halls as well as on council's website.
- 3.8 A notice of intention to amend the Road Management Plan was advertised in the Government Gazette on 24 September 2009, in The Age on 19 September 2009, and the Port Phillip Leader on 22 September 2009.
- 3.9 The advertisements called for submissions on council's Road Management Plan by 23 October 2009 and advised interested parties that they have the right to be heard by council on this matter.
- 3.10 No submissions were received by council on the intention to amend the Plan.
- 3.11 No further changes to the inspection frequencies or service levels have been made to the draft Plan beyond those submitted to Council in September 2009. However some minor clarifications and corrections have been undertaken on the advice of Council's insurer, such as street furniture not being road related infrastructure, additional supporting documents have been listed and the inclusion of a revision history added. In addition the Plan has been reformatted and photographs added.

#### **4 CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS**

- 4.1 A management review of the Road Management Plan was undertaken by a working group comprising members from the following internal departments – Asset Services, Infrastructure Services, Parks and Open Spaces, Governance and Risk, and Communications and Stakeholder Relations.
- 4.2 External consultation was invited by advertisements in the Government Gazette, The Age and the Port Phillip Leader calling for submissions by 23 October 2009. At the close of this period no submissions were received regarding the intention to amend the Road Management Plan.
- 4.3 Council's Risk Management and Insurance Advisor was consulted about the reviewed Plan and has endorsed it. A copy was also forwarded to Council's Insurer for comment and they suggested a number of minor clarifications and corrections that have been incorporated into the Plan.

#### **5. DISCUSSION**

##### **5.1 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN**

- 5.1.1 Promote a culture of good governance.
- 5.1.2 Review services to ensure they meet community needs.
- 5.1.3 Maintain council and community assets to a standard that matches industry best practice.
- 5.1.4 Maintain and enhance streetscapes for improved amenity, character and sustainability

##### **5.2 POLICY IMPLICATIONS PLAN**

- 5.2.1 The review and amendment of the Road Management Plan conforms with the council's Asset Management policy regarding a structured and coordinated approach to the management of assets.

##### **5.3 FINANCE / RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.3.1 The costs associated with this review have been met within the existing operational budgets.

##### **5.4 LEGAL & RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.4.1 Council has the option not to adopt all or some of the amendments to the Plan but this may lessen the effectiveness of the Road Management Plan as a policy defence in public liability claims. The weakening of council's defence in these matters is considered to be unacceptable and this is not recommended.

**6. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

**6.1 TIMELINE**

- 6.1.1 Council will comply with the final stage of the Regulations by advertising the adoption of the amended Road Management Plan in the Government Gazette and a daily newspaper generally circulating in the area.

**6.2 COMMUNICATION**

- 6.2.1 Officers will advertise the adoption of the revised Road Management Plan in the Government Gazette, The Age and the local paper.

**7. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST**

- 7.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.