

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
25 MAY 2009**

ORDER OF THE DAY

ORDER 5	RESPONSE TO PETITION - TO RE-SOW DEGRADED LAWN AREAS OF PORT MELBOURNE LIGHT RAIL RESERVES
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	DAVID YEOUART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY ASSETS AND SERVICES
AUTHOR:	DWAYNE CARTER, COORDINATOR PARK SERVICES
FILE NO.:	68/13/310
ATTACHMENTS:	NIL.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report is presented to Council, in response to a petition which was tabled at The Ordinary Meeting of Council on 23 February 2009, asking for Council to consider re-sewing drought tolerant grass areas which had been degraded.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1. That Council notes that the following actions will be taken to respond to the concerns identified in the petition.
- The degraded turf areas will be upgraded in Autumn, 2010 using line planting of drought tolerant grasses and improvement of existing soils.
 - Over the summer period, damaged areas will be protected with temporary fencing, which will be rotated, to help maintain existing turf within the reserves.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1. Council has received a petition, signed by 156 residents, for council to re-sew degraded areas of the Light Rail reserves in Port Melbourne with drought tolerant grass
- 3.2. Council officers have investigated the site and provide the following information:
- These areas of the light rail reserves are not currently irrigated and the turf areas, in particular, Turner Reserve and Hester reserve do not cope with long dry periods.

- There are areas of drought tolerant grasses performing well, within the reserves and there are other areas of poor turf types, which die in hot summer conditions.
 - Areas of Hester reserve are currently dog-off-lead. The area has high soil compaction, probably due to the high dog usage within the area.
- 3.3. Council officers have identified actions to occur to address the degraded areas of grass in the light rail reserves and the following works will be undertaken:
- The degraded turf areas will be upgraded in Autumn 2010 using line planting of drought tolerant grasses and improvement of existing soils.
 - Over the summer period, damaged areas will be protected with temporary fencing which will be rotated, to help maintain existing turf within the reserves.
- 3.4. A response was sent on the 27th April 2009 to the petitioners detailing the actions that will occur.