

Presentation of Reports – 8.1 CEO Report

**The CEO's report references the works on the tramway in Victoria Avenue were due to start in April, however they don't seem to be completed at all. Is there an opportunity to reconsider those works and call the matter into a Council meeting? Given that 70-80% of residents were opposed to change and given the questions asked tonight, it might be a more transparent process to do this in the Council chamber, if it does not derail any contractual obligations?
(Cr Pearl)**

Response

As part of the consultation process for the proposed line marking to create a full-time tram lane in Victoria Avenue, more than 850 letters were distributed to potentially affected residents and businesses in November 2017.

Only 16 responses were received that included 14 objections and two in support. The feedback and the nature of the proposed works (line marking) were considered. Given the low impact on vehicle traffic and significant safety and walkability benefits, the project was not taken to Council for decision. Council had committed to undertaking the works with the contractor and changes to the road network were implemented under delegation (Local Government Act Schedule 11 Clause 8).

The investigations identified that the area within 20m of Stop 31 is used by a total of 257 adults and high school students that cross Victoria Avenue (not only to/from trams) and 331 vehicles that drive along Victoria Avenue (202 - northbound and 129 - southbound). While drivers were observed stopping to give way to larger groups of pedestrians, improvements to allow pedestrians to cross Victoria Avenue safely were required.

The project was anticipated to be completed during April but initially delayed due to negotiations with Yarra Trams regarding project costs. The proposed works were reassessed after the Council Meeting of 16 May 2018. Although the works could be stopped, a cost penalty would apply if works were cancelled. The line marking is now expected to be completed on 11 June 2018 (weather permitting).