



8.6

HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS - PROPOSED ROAD CLOSURE OF FERRARS STREET (NORTHERN SECTION), GLADSTONE STREET (EASTERN SECTION) AND RAILWAY PLACE (NORTHERN SECTION)

WARD:

GATEWAY

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ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Attachment 1 - Consultation Submissions**
- 2. Attachment 2 - Summary of Key Feedback Themes and Officer Responses**
- 3. Attachment 3 - Consultation Fact Sheet**

PURPOSE

To hear and consider feedback from those who have made written submissions on the proposed closure of Ferrars Street (northern section); Gladstone Street (eastern section); and Railway Place (northern section) in South Melbourne;

I. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1** Notes that on 5 April 2017, Council endorsed the design and delivery of the streetscape works in the Ferrars Street Education and Community Precinct including adjustments to the design made in response to community feedback.
- 1.2** Notes that on 19 September 2017, Council resolved to commence the process for the permanent road closure of Ferrars Street; Gladstone Street; and Railway Place in South Melbourne in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, Section 207 (Power of Council over traffic), Schedule 11, Clause 9 (Power to place obstructions or barriers on a road permanently).
- 1.3** Receives and considers all written and verbal submissions to the proposed closure of Ferrars Street (between Douglas Street and Gladstone Street) and Gladstone Street (between Kerr Street and Ferrars Street) and narrowing of Kerr Street to facilitate the creation of the Montague Community Park.
- 1.4** Receives and considers all written and verbal submissions to the proposed closure of



Railway Place to enable the:

- a) creation of a pedestrian zone at the junction of Meaden Street, Douglas Street and Railway Place; and
 - b) entry and exit for traffic from City Road to the southern section of Railway Place to facilitate access to the back of properties situated on Railway Place and the new school.
- 1.5 Extends its gratitude to all submitters and to persons presenting at this meeting.
- 1.6 Notes that on the 06 December 2017, Council will make a determination on whether to proceed with the proposed road closures.

2. BACKGROUND

Proposed Changes to create Montague Community Park (interim name)

- 2.1 On 13 September 2016, Council resolved to seek a planning scheme amendment in the form of an incorporated document to construct a new park and undertake associated streetscape works after seven weeks of community engagement.
- 2.2 On the 13 December 2016, Council resolved to authorise officers to work with local residents, particularly those at Surveyors Place to re-scope the streetscape works to consider measures that will address their concerns about business access including loss of parking.
- 2.3 On 5 April 2017, Council resolved to enhance an on-street parking mix to support visitors, workers and residents in the precinct arising from further community engagement. The modifications included;
- Enhanced school drop off zones in Ferrars Street, Kerr Street and Whiteman Street
 - Loading zones in Meaden Street and Kerr Street
 - Traffic treatments including pedestrian crossings and 40km/h speed limit in the vicinity of the new school building including Buckhurst Street, Ferrars Street and Railway Place
 - A bus zone in Kerr Street
 - Reintroduced 20 additional visitor parking spaces in Douglas Street including two disabled parking bays
 - Reintroduced 11 additional visitor parking spaces in Ferrars Street.
- 2.4 The permanent closure of Ferrars Street (between Douglas Street and Gladstone Street) and Gladstone Street (between Kerr Street and Ferrars Street) and narrowing Kerr Street in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989* will enable Montague Community Park (interim name) to be built in accordance with the Council resolution of 5 April 2017.
- 2.5 On 5 April 2017, Council authorised Council Officers to finalise the amendment documentation to form the basis of Amendment C135 to the Port Phillip Planning Scheme



pursuant to section 20(4) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to implement the Montague Community Park (interim name) and surrounding streetscape works.

- 2.6 On 12 October 2017, Amendment C135 to the Port Phillip Planning Scheme was gazetted. The amendment rezones the land at 2-4 Buckhurst Street and the sections of surrounding streets from the Capital City Zone (CCZ) to a Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ). The amendment facilitates the delivery of Montague Community Park (interim name) and streetscape works.

Proposed Changes to Railway Place

- 2.7 Council has identified the opportunity to make changes to the traffic configuration and public realm on Railway Place to improve safety and access for pedestrians walking between the new pedestrian ramp for the Route 96 tram stop (City Road Stop 126) and the South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School and community facilities.
- 2.8 To complement other streetscape works aimed at making the precinct well-connected and safe for the whole community, Council plans to permanently close Railway Place between Douglas Street and the southern boundary of South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School (interim name).
- 2.9 Vehicle access will be maintained to the southern section of Railway Place between South Melbourne Ferrars Street Primary School (interim name) and City Road. The southern section of Railway Place will become a no-through road with a turnaround area, providing two way-access left in and out from City Road. There will be no standing or parking on the southern section of Railway Place.
- 2.10 On 13 September 2016, Council resolved to commence the process to close Railway Place in accordance with Section 207 of the Local Government Act.
- 2.11 On 13 December 2016, Council noted that the closure of Railway Place will only proceed if agreement was reached with the Victorian Government to use VicTrack land needed to support the road closure.
- 2.12 On 26 July 2017, Council was granted a VicTrack license for the southern section of Railway Place.

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 19 September 2017, Council resolved to commence the process for the permanent road closure of sections of Ferrars Street; Gladstone Street; and Railway Place in South Melbourne in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, Section 207 (Power of Council over traffic) Schedule 11, Clause 9 (Power to place obstructions or barriers on a road permanently).

Consultation Feedback on Proposed Road and Streetscape Changes

- 3.2 Council carried out community consultation between 26 September and 23 October 2017 on the proposed closures of Ferrars Street (between Douglas Street and Gladstone Street) and Gladstone Street (between Kerr Street and Ferrars Street) and Railway Place (northern section).
- 3.3 The consultation was designed to ensure that affected property owners and occupiers, statutory authorities and infrastructure providers were aware of the proposal and its



potential impacts and provide an opportunity for them to submit feedback for Council's consideration.

- 3.4 The communication and consultation activities carried out between 26 September and 23 October 2017 are outlined in section 5 of this report.
- 3.5 This consultation followed three phases of community consultation during 2016 and early 2017 on the proposed planning scheme amendment to rezone the land at 2-4 Buckhurst Street and applying the road closure overlay to legally close Ferrars Street (between Douglas and Gladstone Streets) and Gladstone Street (between Kerr and Ferrars Streets) and narrowing of Kerr Street.
- 3.6 A total of 19 written submissions were received between 26 September and 23 October 2017. This included:
 - Eight submissions from business owners/occupiers
 - Two submissions from statutory authorities and utility providers
 - Four submissions from residential owners/occupiers
 - One submission from Port Phillip Bike User Group
 - Four submissions from other respondents
- 3.7 Attachment 1 includes all submissions received during the consultation period.
- 3.8 The key feedback themes of the submissions included comments on:
 - Proposed changes to Railway Place
 - Development of Montague Community Park (interim name)
 - Removal of on-street parking spaces
 - Parking provision for new school
 - Impacts of road closures on traffic flow
 - Impacts of road closures on driver safety
 - Bicycle lanes in the precinct
 - Timing of road closures
 - Parking – credit card payment.
- 3.9 Attachment 2 provides officer responses to all key feedback themes received during the consultation period.



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- Direction 4 – We are growing and keeping our character
- Outcome 4.1 – Liveability in a high density City
- Outcome B – Designing, activating and managing public spaces that are safe and inviting places for people to enjoy
- Outcome C – Extending, connecting and diversifying our open space network to cater for increased demand
- Priority dot point 1 – Partner with the Victorian Government to ensure the Fishermans Bend Framework and precinct plans maximise outcomes for current and future Port Phillip residents, including employment, housing choice, quality public space and community facilities, and early delivery of fast, frequent public transport
- Priority dot point 2 – Deliver open space and streetscape works in Fishermans Bend, particularly in the Montague Precinct and at the Ferrars Street Education and Community Precinct.

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 The communications and consultation activities carried out between 26 September and 23 October 2017 were:
- Letter and fact sheet (included in Attachment 3) mailed to over 300 landowners and occupiers in the area bounded by Montague Street, City Road, the Route 96 tram line and Route 109 tram line.
 - Have Your Say online engagement page with feedback form
 - Advertisement in the Port Phillip Leader newspaper on 26 September 2017
 - Email to Council's stakeholder database of over 60 property owners and businesses in the precinct
 - Corflute noticeboards displayed on the Montague Community Park site and Railway Place
 - Promotion of the consultation on Council Facebook and Twitter channels with link to Have Your Say page.
- 5.2 26 written submissions were received during the consultation on the precinct plans in July 2016 that lead to Council resolving principles for the design.
- 5.3 One further submission was received on the principles and design during August/September 2016 that lead to Council resolving the Montague Park and streetscape plans.
- 5.4 A further 16 submissions were received during consultation in February/March 2017 on the request of Council to further investigate ways to improve parking and traffic impacts in the precinct that led to a revised resolution improving parking and traffic elements.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS





- 6.1 The road closures are being considered in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, Section 207 (Power of Council over traffic), Schedule 11, Clause 9 (Power to place obstructions or barriers on a road permanently).
- 6.2 The consultation process informed and sought feedback from affected land owners and occupiers, statutory bodies and the wider community to inform Council's decision on whether to proceed with the proposed road closures.
- 6.3 This report considers all feedback received during the consultation process. All submitters have been invited to present on the 15 November 2017, to talk to their submissions.

7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.1 The proposed extension of the Montague Community Park will have no negative environmental impacts. This proposal would provide the Montague Community and new school with a new open space.

7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 The proposed extension of the Park through road closures will facilitate delivery of a larger community open space which will provide further opportunity for relaxation and recreational activity.

7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 7.3.1 Submissions from business owners have expressed strong concerns about the potential impacts on their businesses due to the loss of on-street parking.

7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.4.1 All works associated with the Montague Community Park are being funded by Council and the State Government.

8. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

8.1 TIMELINE

- 8.1.1 On the 06 December 2017, Council will make a final determination on whether to proceed with the proposed road closures of Ferrars Street (northern section), Gladstone Street (eastern section) and Railway Place (northern section) in South Melbourne, having given due consideration to community feedback and Council officer's recommendations.

8.2 COMMUNICATION

- 8.2.1 Council's Have Your Say page and web page will be updated with the details of Council's decision and a link to the minutes of this Council Meeting.
- 8.2.2 Council officers will continue to update the local community and stakeholders on key issues and progress in the Ferrars Street Education and Community Precinct via email updates, website information and other communication materials.



9. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

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

