



Docklands Community Forum: Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, 31 August 2016

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Venue: Library at The Dock, 107 Victoria Harbour Promenade, Docklands (LATD)

Estimated attendance: 85

Docklands Representative Group (DRG):

Attendees: Albert Marcos, David Wong, Johanna Maxwell, Phil Spender, Janine Standfield, Roger Gardner

Apologies: Andrew Ward, Mark Scholem

Places Victoria (PV) and City of Melbourne (CoM):

PV Georgie Dwyer, Ronan Mellan

CoM Trudy Reid-McPhee, Cindy Caldeira, Kimberley Pierzchalskui, Louise Cadell, Sarah Lowcock, Emma Braden, Tim D'Agostino, Gail Hall, Jem Wilson, Emily Physick, Ian Hicks

Guests and presenters:

Tim D'Agostino, City of Melbourne

Senior Sergeant Michael Wilmot, Local Area Commander Simon Stevens, Victoria Police;

Roger Gardner, Docklands Community Association (DCA);

Johanna Maxwell, Docklands Chamber of Commerce (DCCC);

Peter Graham, David Miles, Department of Education and Training (DET);

Kathryn Norton, Jim Carden, Gary West, Western Distributor Project (WDP);

Jenny Psihogios, Celeste Greinke, Lendlease, MQ

Councilors:

Cr Cathy Oke, Cr Jackie Watts, Cr Ken Ong

Chair:

Johanna Maxwell

Welcome: Johanna Maxwell

Acknowledgement of traditional owners on whose lands we were meeting. Welcome Councilors, special guests and all for attending. Introductions of DRG members present by a show of hands. Housekeeping and special meeting format explained.

Docklands Community and Place Plan update: Places Victoria and City of Melbourne

No update on DCPD from PV and CoM

Skate Melbourne plan, Update from Tim D'Agostino, Open Space Project Officer, City of Melbourne

An update was provided on the development of a strategic plan to better support and manage skating in the city. Skateboarding is an increasingly popular activity amongst youth across Victoria. Results of phase one of community engagement are public and the draft will go to the Future Melbourne committee on 6 September. To stay up to date visit [Skate Melbourne Plan](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/skate)¹ or email skatemelbourne@melbourne.vic.gov.au.

Feedback and questions from the audience

What's the definition of skating? The plan relates to small-wheeled boards including traditional skateboards and inline skates etc.

Is skating on footpaths permitted? Yes, motorised devices are not permitted on footpaths

The recent media and treatment of state boarding by Council has not been received well. How will this be addressed by CoM to ensure skateboarding is supported? The key issues at Lincoln Square were associated with skating in and around a memorial and proximity to residences. The proposed Skate Melbourne Plan is being developed to ensure these sorts of issues do not reoccur.

Neighborhood updates

Victoria Police, Senior Sargent Michael Wilmot and Local Area Commander Simon Stevens

An increasing number of thefts are being reported and for people to be aware of including:

Opportunistic – handbags, personal belongings. Don't get distracted; particularly be alert for pickpockets on crowded trams, retail change rooms and putting bags down in places such as shoe shops.

From Cars – 83% of theft from cars is from multilevel car parks – residential and commercial. Be alert for pedestrians tailgating (following you in) in driveways and lifts, and treat parking in a multilevel the same way you would park on the street. Please do report tailgating. Don't leave valuables in cars, as thieves will break your windows to get them. Recent thefts include caravan leads, small change. Also keep an eye out for number plate theft – check that you have them, they haven't been loosened or that they have been swapped and aren't your number plates. Report suspicious behavior around your building. Even if police don't attend, its information that will help provide a missing link and/or police may be in the area close by and can keep a lookout, whilst on the move.

Bicycles – do use a D-lock to attach frame to a solid fixture. Choose well lit areas to leave them. And in case they are stolen, know what type of bike it is to be able to describe it and make it easier to identify.

Currently running a Safer Travel campaign with Public Transport Victoria – empowering people to report crime on public transport – online or calling crime stoppers.

¹ <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/skate>

A variety of educational material has been developed for residents in high rises. These can also be downloaded from [Crime Prevention & Community Safety](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/crimeprevention)² at Victoria Police. Also encourage your Owners Corp (OC) to look at it, and if interested sessions can be organised within your buildings on bike engraving.

Docklands Resident Association, Roger Gardner, President

Concerns around Western Distributor traffic volumes – see Western Distributor item later on the agenda. Recommend all take note of the works at Harbour Town, which are really improving the look of the area.

Docklands Chamber of Commerce, Johanna Maxwell, President

Very happy with the winter fireworks in July and August – Thanks City of Melbourne. Excellent event last Sunday – Blessing of the Fleet/ Melbourne Regatta. The Chamber has a number of upcoming events which provide networking opportunities. Last weekend and this one coming – Places Victoria has organised Pokemon Weekend, which has been very popular and the second most popular post for the DCC. Visit [Docklands Melbourne Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Visit-Docklands-Melbourne-737363709705479/?fref=ts)³, which is the new social media page for the Chamber, and promotes all events occurring in the Docklands.

Visit the [Docklands Chamber of Commerce](http://www.docklandsc.com.au)⁴ or you can email either admin at admin@docklandsc.com.au or the president at president@docklandsc.com.au.

Special presentations

Chair introduced guest speaker from Department of Education and Training.

Schools provision in Docklands, Peter Graham A/Executive Director Strategy Division, DET

The Department of Education is planning for an additional 4800 primary school places and 2000 secondary school places, within the next 15 years. Mr Graham provided an overview of both of Stage 1 & 2 of the Docklands School Provision Review which was completed in June, with an emphasis on Stage 2 results. A report outlining its recommendations is with the Minister for Education, for approval. An announcement from the Minister in relation to schools provision within the inner city will be released soon, and Docklands families will reportedly be able to derive a measurement of comfort from it.

Comments and questions from the audience

The chair on behalf of the DRG tabled a letter of support received from the Lord Mayor, in response to invitation from the DRG to attend the forum to show Council support of a school for Docklands. (Attached at the end of the minutes)

Will the new Ferrars Street School be available as the “local” school for Docklands students? School zone boundaries will be released soon, and yes, it will.

Will North Melbourne Primary be the “local” school for residents in the northern end of Docklands? Yes, for 2017.

How can North Melbourne Primary School accommodate more enrolments when there is no more space left for demountable classroom and Council continues to approve apartment developments? Government invests in schools on an annual basis. North Melbourne Primary School will be able to accommodate enrolments for 2017 and the Department is working on long term solutions.

Regarding the recommendations of the report with the Minister, will the government have the money to do it? They have made a commitment. It is very expensive in the inner city (land, needing to build up). What about

² <http://www.police.vic.gov.au/crimeprevention>

³ <https://www.facebook.com/Visit-Docklands-Melbourne-737363709705479/?fref=ts>

⁴ <http://www.docklandsc.com.au/>

renting spaces for schools? The government is looking at different models for school funding including collocated and multipurpose facilities, schools opening beyond 5 pm. Ownership of schools is preferred as a long term proposition.

What about a secondary school for Docklands? Currently the designated local secondary school for Docklands is Mt Alexander College. Access to secondary schools was looked at as part of the review.

Can Docklands have University High School or Albert Park College as their "local" for access? The local school is usually the one that is closest 'as the crow flies' or neighbourhood zones. The report proposes solutions that should resolve this.

Population increases have been known for some time. State and local governments have let us down in planning. What will be the provision for open space? There are always trade-offs. Land in the inner city is very expensive and, unlike the outer suburbs, there are close to no large sites available. Proximity to your local school will be lost if you want large open space.

Will a change in government change the long term plan? Once a government commits funding, it is very, very rare to change the plan, even with a change in government.

Is it planning or just reactionary? Yes, it is planned.

Cr Ong: Since 2009, City of Melbourne has pushed for a city school. The state government appears to be using models based on suburban requirements and not those of inner cities. The new Ferrars Street School will dominantly service Fishermen's Bend. What is the plan for inner city and Docklands schools provision? There is a potential school site in Digital Harbour. The DET have explored this site and are of the view that it is too small for a school. The numbers in childcare in the city (over 2000) surely indicate the need for schools? Childcare enrolments can't always indicate demand as people use childcare both near home and near work, which would not be the same for schooling.

Schools located near housing estates are underutilised and catholic schools in the inner city are losing enrolments. Why can't the department work with catholic schools to resolve the disparity? Changing underutilisation is a long term issue and we are working on this. Recommendations have been made in the report to address this.

When is the report coming? Can only say soon, it is with the Minister.

Further comments from the audience:

- Under the model of schools proposed in inner city, meaningful open space is questionable. Think Open Space is very important.
- Principal Albert Park Primary: our school was built for 280, and currently has 550 enrolments. The demand from families in the Docklands is constant but we are over capacity. Families are moving out of Docklands due of the lack of schools.
- The distance travelled by families is a recurring issue for children. We (the residents) are not rejecting those schools; they're just pretty far for families on the southern side of Docklands.
- The Chair on behalf of the Docklands Representative Group welcomes Mr Peter Graham to return to the forum once the report has been released. Peter Graham would be happy to accommodate.
- Janine Standfield expressed sincere thanks to Peter Graham for representing the Department at the Forum. The community and families have been requesting the Department for many years to speak to the public on this very important issue, and Peter Graham has been able to deliver on this with his presence this evening.

Information from the Department in relation to Docklands Schools Review can be viewed at [School Provision Review of the Docklands Area](#)⁵.

Meeting paused to allow for people exiting the forum followed by Chair introducing the guest speaker from WDA. The Victorian State Government and Transurban have partnered up to deliver the Western Distributor project.

Western Distributor Project, Gary West, General Manager Victoria, Transurban

There are three components to the Western Distributor Project:

1. **Monash Freeway Upgrade:** The works extend from Koo Wee Rup Road to Warrigal Road. Works will increase capacity to address the most congested areas at the Hallam bypass and East Link interchange. Works are scheduled to start late September 2016.
2. **Webb Dock Access:** Improvements to the freeway network. This will provide safer access to CityLink, so trucks don't have to use the West Gate Freeway.
3. **Western Distributor:** Works will be 2018-2022. Upgrade the West Gate Freeway from the M80 Ring Road to Williamstown Road from 4-6 lanes in each direction. Tunnel from within the West Gate Freeway, under Yarraville to the Maribyrnong River. Crossing of the Maribyrnong River and an elevated freeway above Footscray Road, with connections into the Port of Melbourne, CityLink, Wurundjeri Way and Dynon Road.

The project is a variation of the Eddington Report alignment. This is a presentation of the Reference Design, which has been prepared to support new job precincts. The Reference Design has been prepared to support new job precincts with the following connections:

- Footscray Road remains as it is. An elevated road will run above it linking to the City Link. The elevated structure connects to Footscray Road.
- Connection to Dynon Road.
- Extension of Wurundjeri Way and the widening of Wurundjeri Way by one lane in each direction to Flinders Street.
- Connections to Port of Melbourne.

An increase in traffic is not expected due to significant population growth in the West and the city, south and north being economic drivers. For every 10 people living in the west there are only three jobs.

Improved cycling connections to the west and the Capital City Trail, separated from trucks.

Project working to try and minimise impact in sensitive areas like Moonee Ponds Creek and E-Gate. Also recognises the strong desire for rail infrastructure connectivity into the future.

Next steps: The project team will be having Pop-Up Information Sessions for community comment and information. Docklands sessions will be from Tuesday 6 to Saturday 10 September Harbour Esplanade South (directly across from Etihad Stadium next to Hortus cafe)

The Reference Design and Request for Tender has been issued to market. There will be further opportunities for community input next year.

For information on Western Distributor visit [Western Distributor Project](#)⁶.

⁵ <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/infrastructure/pages/reviewdocklands.aspx>

⁶ <http://westerndistributorproject.vic.gov.au/>

Comments and questions from attendees

[Community Group Western Connections](#)⁷ want to make E-Gate area parkland and connect Docklands to West Melbourne. Concerned at the project's proposed road through E-Gate. Ask Docklands residents and businesses to talk to the Group about these concerns and band together. Gary West spoke to this item to confirm the alignment of the Wurundjeri Way extension through E-Gate.

What impact the project will have on commercial and car traffic in Docklands? It is expected a similar mix of traffic will be entering Docklands, and that traffic to the area would be coming regardless of the project. This lead to a question about the existing congestion and the project team are of the view that they do not expect a substantive change in traffic in that area.

What traffic modelling has been undertaken? What is happening on the other side of Wurundjeri Way? The project will be providing a second river crossing of the Maribyrnong River, at the end of Footscray Road, not the Yarra.

Cr Oke noted references to City of Melbourne's comments and objections were noted. The project team was not in a position to respond to these, the information has been passed to the tenderers.

Chair introduced guest speaker from MQ.

Melbourne Quarter (MQ) development, Jenny Psihogios, Senior Development Manager, Ground Plane, MQ

Located on Collins and Flinders Streets opposite Southern Cross, over Wurundjeri Way. The design has been in development since 2013 and construction is imminent which will take approx. 6 years to complete.

Approx. 50% of the project is Open Space. Learnings from Victoria Harbour have been taken into account. Some open space may only be accessible during the day (e.g. the Skypark).

The current pedestrian bridge at Flinders Street will be removed in 2017 by the current leaseholders. It is not part of this project to look at the tram lines on Flinders/Wurundjeri Way. Flinders St red brick wall is heritage listed and will remain, with some openings in it.

If you would like more information on any aspect of the Melbourne Quarter project, email the project team at mqcommunity@lendlease.com, call the community hotline on 1300 719 356 or visit [Melbourne Quarter](#).⁸

Other business:

Anna Rowe, a Masters Student studying at the University of Melbourne, invited attendees of the forum to participate in research that looks into resident sense of place in Docklands. It is hoped that this research will inform discussion about future place making initiatives in Docklands. Anna wishes to have a chat with people who live in Docklands to gain a better understanding of resident thoughts and feelings in relation to ground level activities in and around buildings. To take part, or request more information, call Anna on 0435 615 125 or email anna.rowe@unimelb.edu.au.

Next Forum and meeting close:

Chair encouraged attendees to provide feedback to improve future forums and to register to the mailing list to be kept informed.

⁷ <http://www.westernconnection.org.au/>

⁸ <http://www.melbournequarter.com/>

The next Docklands Community Forum is on Wednesday, 26 October 2016 at 6pm. More detail including an agenda is available at [Docklands Community Forum](#)⁹

⁹ <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/community/strong-communities/Pages/docklands-community-forum.aspx>

Excerpt of letter from the Lord Mayor, Robert Doyle to Janine Standfield, Parent Representative, Docklands Community Forum, dated 23 August 2016 on Docklands School Provision:

Thank you for your email and invitation to attend the Docklands Forum on 31 August 2016. As you are already aware, unfortunately I will not be able to attend.

I am writing in support of the need for more school places across the municipality, including the need for additional school places that better service the needs of families and children in Docklands.

There is unprecedented growth in the City of Melbourne. The Council adopted the Community Infrastructure Development Framework 2014 (CIDF) that confirms there is a substantial need for additional school places across the municipality due to population growth. The CIDF identifies that additional school places must be considered as a matter of priority by the State Government.

In September 2015 Councillors met with the Minister for Education to discuss the need for additional school places across the municipality, including additional places to service the Docklands community. The commitment was made at that time for the school provision plan to be prepared for the Docklands and surrounding areas.

We are also awaiting the outcome of the school provision plan. The Council and management will continue to advocate to the State Government for increased school provision to meet the needs of the municipality, as a matter of priority.

Should you have any questions or need any assistance in the meantime, please contact Mr Ian Hicks, Manager Placemaking and Engagement on 9658 9907.