

**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Rajesh Naik

**Email address: \*** [REDACTED]

**Phone number \*** [REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \*** [REDACTED]

**Agenda item title:** Docklands Neighbourhood house

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**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

I am a resident Docklander from the past six years. My child has cerebral palsy and he attends Docklands Primary School. I wish to convey my support to request the honourable members of the Melbourne council to offer continuous, ongoing support to the Docklands Neighbourhood House. Though I am unable to attend in person I take this opportunity to convey my request with utmost importance that the Docklands Neighbourhood House has brought about a very impactful, positive change in our community. Especially considering my kid has a disability the programs offered by them (Art and craft camp) plus the fishing camp brought a positive feeling to my child. Therefore, it is my request to keep the funding active. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss further. Thank you.

**Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: \*** No

**Privacy acknowledgement: \*** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \*** Ariel Valent

**Email address: \*** [REDACTED]

**Phone number \*** [REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Agenda item title: \*** 6.2 Draft Council Budget

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[\\_16\\_may\\_2023\\_draft\\_budget\\_submission\\_docklands\\_neighbourhood\\_house\\_compiled.pdf](#)

1.77 MB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: \*** Yes

**If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom) to the meeting. Please note, physical attendance will be limited in accordance with City of Melbourne security** I wish to make my submission in person

protocols and COVID-  
safe plans and be  
allocated on a first  
registered, first served  
basis. \*

Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

Ariel Valent, The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne

Tuesday 16 May 2023

## **Agenda Item 6.2 – Draft Council Budget**

### **Docklands Neighbourhood House**

At the time of writing, the draft budget has not been released, so I can't respond to anything specific that is included in the budget.

However, we have been made aware by City of Melbourne management that there is no provision for the funding of a Neighbourhood House in Docklands from July 2023.

It is understood that Councillors have not had an opportunity to make a decision about Docklands Neighbourhood House and whether and how City of Melbourne would support this entity beyond the current one-off funding that runs expires in June 2023.

This submission is designed to give you another perspective from information you may have received from management.

### **Background**

In 2019, City of Melbourne funded The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne to develop and operate a Docklands Pop Up Neighbourhood House. This was initially funded through the (then) Social Innovation Partnerships for two years.

The Pop Up opened in December 2019 in a shopfront in District Docklands and was building momentum when the pandemic shut everything down in March 2020. Through and between lockdowns, the Neighbourhood House did its best to bring the Docklands community together in very challenging circumstances.

City of Melbourne funding finished in October 2021. From October 2021 to December 2022 Docklands Neighbourhood House (no longer a "Pop Up") was funded by Development Victoria. When that tranche of funding came to a close, City of Melbourne and Development Victoria combined to provide one-off special funding that would keep Docklands Neighbourhood House in operation until June 2023.

### **What's Taken Place?**

Through 2022 and the early part of 2023, Docklands Neighbourhood House has applied the principles of community development to a wide range of programs and initiatives.

Our focus has been on providing opportunities for community connection and improving wellbeing. Our goals for the Docklands community are social cohesion and community empowerment. Docklands Neighbourhood House elevates the quiet voices of Docklands residents, with a particular focus on residents who have just recently arrived in Docklands (and indeed Australia).

Our approach is “bottom up”, community-driven and local-scale.

The range of programs and initiatives have included:

- Four Hindu celebration public events: Holi (March 2022); Navratri (October 2022); Diwali (October 2022) and Vasant (February 2023). Total attendances across four events was 4 000.
- Community Sports Day and BBQ (December 2022) which saw 250 Docklands residents engage in cricket, table tennis, soccer and fishing
- A picnic for international students
- Cirque Culinaire (October 2022) showcasing local cooks across a variety of cultures
- A weekly (now bi-weekly) social fishing program
- Regular health and wellbeing classes in Pilates, yoga and meditation
- Weekly playgroup sessions focusing on newly arrived young migrant families
- School holiday visual art programs for pre-schoolers and primary school children
- Repair Cafes in which local volunteer repairers help fix broken household items
- Weekly Homework Club, focusing on literacy support for needy local primary school students
- Multicultural Womens Advocacy Network

Most of our programs are offered in partnership. The projects above have been delivered in partnership with:

- Department of Health
- SarasCare
- Docklands Sports Clubs
- B-Friend
- The Village Festival
- Melbourne Community Toy Library
- Premium Fitness
- Docklands Residents Group
- Docklands Chamber of Commerce
- District Docklands
- Australian Communities Foundation
- YMCA; and
  
- City of Melbourne, through the following areas:
  - International Students
  - City of Melbourne Marina
  - Library @ The Dock

- Community Events program
- Connected Communities
- Additionally, Docklands Neighbourhood House has worked closely with City of Melbourne’s Neighbourhood Partner for Docklands.

Additionally Docklands Neighbourhood House has been an **open access community centre** and drop-in facility, operating 18 hours per week. During this time, staff and volunteers provide community members with a range of assistance, such as referrals to specialist services, information

### **Assessment for Continued Funding**

City of Melbourne funds four neighbourhood houses through partnerships under the Community Grants and Partnerships Framework 2022-25.

When FMC endorsed this framework on 20 September 2022, it included a motion:

“notes the potential additional need to reconsider the total quantum of funds allocated to Neighbourhood Houses if it is found during assessment processes that there is an increase in the number of eligible recipients worthy of funding.”

Under the Framework, Neighbourhood House partnership agreements are to commence from July 1, 2023. Now is the time for that assessment process to be made.

We have been clear with management that we want Docklands Neighbourhood House to be assessed under the provisions of this motion. Our discussions with City of Melbourne management have led us to the conclusion that the assessment of Docklands Neighbourhood House as a potential “eligible recipient worthy of funding” has been **ill-defined, inadequate and incomplete**. For example, none of the executive staff who have made the “assessment” has visited Docklands Neighbourhood House or participated in (or observed) any of its programs. We understand that there have been many staff changes and acting arrangements in this part of Council, so perhaps that is understandable.

We hold at the very least that Future Melbourne Committee is owed a report from management about its assessment of Docklands Neighbourhood House (and any other potential new Neighbourhood Houses) so that there is transparency for Councillors, the Docklands community and the Docklands Neighbourhood House team.

### **Worthiness of Funding**

I present to Councillors two pieces of evidence that have been supplied to management. At the conclusion of this submission, please find:

- A Strategic Development Group independent Community Needs Analysis of Docklands that we commissioned last year. [Executive Summary is included. Please let me know if you want the full report]
- A mid-term report that we provided for the interim funding for the current City of Melbourne funding from January to June 2023.

Regarding the mid-term report, please keep in mind that this refers only to January to April 2023, and does not refer to the achievements of the previous 2022 year, during which we had a higher level of funding.

Our report is an honest internal assessment of the successes and challenges of establishing a Neighbourhood House in Docklands. **Docklands Neighbourhood House is not yet an unqualified success; however, it is a qualified success, and deeply valued by the Docklands community.** We believe that Docklands Neighbourhood House has sufficiently proved that it is worthy of continued existence, and therefore funding under City of Melbourne’s Community Grants and Partnerships Framework.

In the absence of a documented assessment, this is what we can glean about why management has not recommended funding Docklands Neighbourhood House beyond June 2023.

- The level of reported community engagement is lower than desired/expected
- Needs in Docklands must be considered against needs in other neighbourhoods, such as Southbank.
- Issues that we self-reported in having a sub-standard temporary venue and challenges in reaching some isolated cohorts in the community
- There are limited financial resources at City of Melbourne
- The absence of other funders for Docklands Neighbourhood House

To address each one of these in turn:

#### *Level of Community Engagement*

As per our mid-term report, these are the existing programs run by Docklands Neighbourhood House and the participation levels:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Hours / week</b>	<b>Average attendance / session</b>
<b>Regular Programming</b>		
Social Fishing Club (2 sessions / week)	4.5	12
Friday Afternoon Play Session	2	15
Docklands Homework Club	1.5	13
Yoga and Pilates at the Marina (2 sessions)	2	6
Meditation and Wellbeing classes	1	6
Casual Conversation Club	1	<i>Just started</i>
<b>Irregular Programming and Activities</b>		
Event Management Course	5 x 4 hours	9
Vasant Celebration	3 hours	600
Community BBQs	3 hours ~monthly	8 – 50
School Holiday Art Programs	4 x 2.5 hours ~quarterly	6 - 25

Repair Café	2 ~quarterly	First one for 2023 this weekend
Advocacy & Engagement		
"Open Door" Neighbourhood House Access		18 hours / week
Hindu Celebrations Planning Group	Varies	
The Centre Docklands Subcommittee		
Soul of Docklands		
Multicultural Women's Advocacy Group		

Management has questioned some of these numbers. I have explained that the numbers given are typical figures when a program is in its mature phase under normal circumstances. So for example, social fishing took some time to build to the standard numbers, and are significantly less than stated if it's rainy and blowing a gale. Conversely, the yoga and Pilates classes programs were pretty consistent at about 6 attendees, but in recent weeks it has fallen to 2 or 3. Having tried a number of strategies, we will be winding up these classes and investing our energies in other emerging programs.

Overall, we agree with management that these numbers are lower than ideal for a thriving Neighbourhood House.

It must be remembered that Docklands Neighbourhood House has had 18 months post-COVID lockdowns to get established, and with a lot less funding than a typical Neighbourhood House. Comparing it to an established Neighbourhood House is unfair. For example, The Centre in Errol St. North Melbourne has engagement roughly four times the above, but it has the benefit of 40 years history, an established community and a broad funding base.

The community development approach is not linear; it can be slow and messy at times. Not everything we try takes off.

It is also important to note that smaller attendances also have their distinct advantages in terms of the ability for participants to make meaningful social connections. If you visit our Errol St. Neighbourhood House, you are likely to see 6 to 12 people gathered for a social or educational program.

Our agreement with City of Melbourne for the six month funding steered us towards weekly programs located at the Neighbourhood House. For most program types, our practical capacity is 15 people, so that should also be kept in mind.

Docklands Neighbourhood House has shown that it is capable of drawing very large numbers to other types of programs. In 2022, we presented Holi attended by 1300 people, and co-presented with SarasCare Diwali which was attended by 2000 people.

*Docklands versus Other Neighbourhoods*



I am not in favour of pitting one neighbourhood against another. However, Docklands is different in both positive and negative ways. The historical development process and the predominant built form has made community life in the suburb particularly challenging.

The importance of community-focused goals in Docklands has been highlighted time and time again in City of Melbourne (and other) research such as the Neighbourhood consultation process and the Docklands Summit.

I think there is near-universal agreement that creating community connection, improving community empowerment and social cohesion are vital goals to pursue to ensure Docklands thrives.

Every community needs structures to pursue these goals that make sense in the context of the neighbourhood. A Neighbourhood House is one structure that has proven to be very effective in meeting these goals. Perhaps other structures will have greater impact in some neighbourhoods, but in Docklands, there is community support for a Neighbourhood House.

#### *Sub-standard temporary venue*

It is true that our facility in a shopfront in District Docklands is less than ideal for a Neighbourhood House. However, we do what we can within these constraints and use other facilities when appropriate.

If Docklands Neighbourhood House is to thrive into the long-term future, we will need a different facility, but this is no reason to discount the *concept* of a Neighbourhood House, which remains strong.

#### *Challenges in reaching some isolated cohorts in the community*

This is a perennial challenge in community development and neighbourhood development. Docklands Neighbourhood House has not had sufficient resources to reach into all cohorts of Docklands community, but we are mid-way in this journey, and together with City of Melbourne and other partners, can continue to try and reach and engage isolated cohorts.

#### *There are limited financial resources at City of Melbourne*

Not having seen the draft budget, it is difficult for us to see where Council has prioritised its spending. However, we definitely acknowledge the challenge of delivering a balanced budget that meets the many demands of City of Melbourne. It is appropriate that all expenditure is assessed for maximum impact.

However, City of Melbourne has a fund of in excess of \$2 million from developer contributions that is specifically earmarked for community in Docklands. If City of Melbourne cannot find \$100 000 for Docklands Neighbourhood House in its standard budget, it could use this pool.

#### *The absence of other funders for Docklands Neighbourhood House*

Key to the financial success of Neighbourhood Houses is a mix of funding sources. Almost all Neighbourhood Houses receive state government ongoing funding through the Neighbourhood Houses Co-ordination Program. Docklands Neighbourhood House has not been able to access this fund because it last opened for new funding in 2018. The next opportunity for new Neighbourhood House funding under this scheme is likely to be 2024-25, one year from now.

But without local government support, Docklands Neighbourhood House won't exist when that opportunity presents.

Otherwise, Docklands Neighbourhood House has been successful in getting a \$20 000 philanthropic grant to establish the Docklands Homework Club.

We are also in advanced discussions with MAB, LendLease and Mirvac to contribute financially (~\$40 000) to a unique *Soul of Docklands* project that we will run in association with Docklands Chamber of Commerce.

There is additional significant support from both corporate and philanthropic entities in negotiation. Letters of support will follow at a later stage. These contributions are contingent upon there being a base level of support for Docklands Neighbourhood House (ie local government funding).

Despite the various shortcomings identified by management, they actually said that they would be prepared to fund Docklands Neighbourhood House, but with an additional quantum of funding as per the September 2022 resolution. Rather, they suggested splitting The Centre's partnership allocation between North Melbourne, West Melbourne and Docklands. If Docklands Neighbourhood House is eligible and worthy of funding, the motion of September 2022 should be invoked and additional funding be considered.

### **Alternatives to Neighbourhood House in Docklands**

If City of Melbourne proposed a viable alternative to Docklands Neighbourhood House addressing community development in the neighbourhood, then perhaps this recommendation would be valid.

We heard that:

- The Connected Neighbourhoods small grants are working well. [We fully support this grants model]
- There is a plan to form a stakeholder working group to look at the issue starting from July 2023
- They are looking to new groups such as Owners Corporation Network and the anti-ATET Residents of Docklands to guide their initiatives
- There are plans for an extended functionality for the Multicultural Hub in welcoming newly arrived residents from across the municipality.

The formation of a stakeholder working group is particularly galling. This is a recommendation coming out of Docklands Summit which has not yet been actioned. This stakeholder working group is a good idea and we are happy to participate in it if invited. However, the likelihood that this will result in any meaningful community development in Docklands in the short to medium term is extremely low.

The other proposals do not amount to anything substantive.

### **Conclusion and Next Steps**

We do not suppose that a Neighbourhood House in Docklands will solve all of the issues in this neighbourhood. Not any one program ever can.

However, we believe that Docklands Neighbourhood House has done enough to justify its ongoing existence.

To be clear, **City of Melbourne not funding Docklands Neighbourhood House beyond June 2023 will mean its closure.** The Board of The Centre: Connecting Community in North & West Melbourne under whom Docklands Neighbourhood House has been set up, cannot fund it ongoingly.

To close now would mean that community development in Docklands would take a massive step backwards. All of the hard-won gains will be lost, and there will be a vacuum into which a Stakeholder Working Group will be sucked. I wouldn't be surprised if in 18 months, the group recommends a grass roots community-led organisation to help the local community meet its needs and fulfil its aspirations. And two years after that, it might be established, and we will be about six years behind where we could be, if we maintain consistency and continuity, building on momentum, rather than stopping it in its tracks.

Our understanding is that Councillors are looking for a demonstration that there is a will, the support and demand for Docklands Neighbourhood House from the local community. It is our job to show that to you between now and when budget submissions close in 8 June.

If there are other questions that Councillors have about Docklands Neighbourhood House, I am more than happy to answer them. You are all welcome to the Repair Café at Library @ The Dock this coming Sunday, 1pm to 3pm. Or please let me know if you would like to visit Docklands Neighbourhood House at any time.

City of Melbourne Funding Agreement  
Docklands Neighbourhood House Jan – Jun 2023  
Mid-Term Report

Project Details

Title

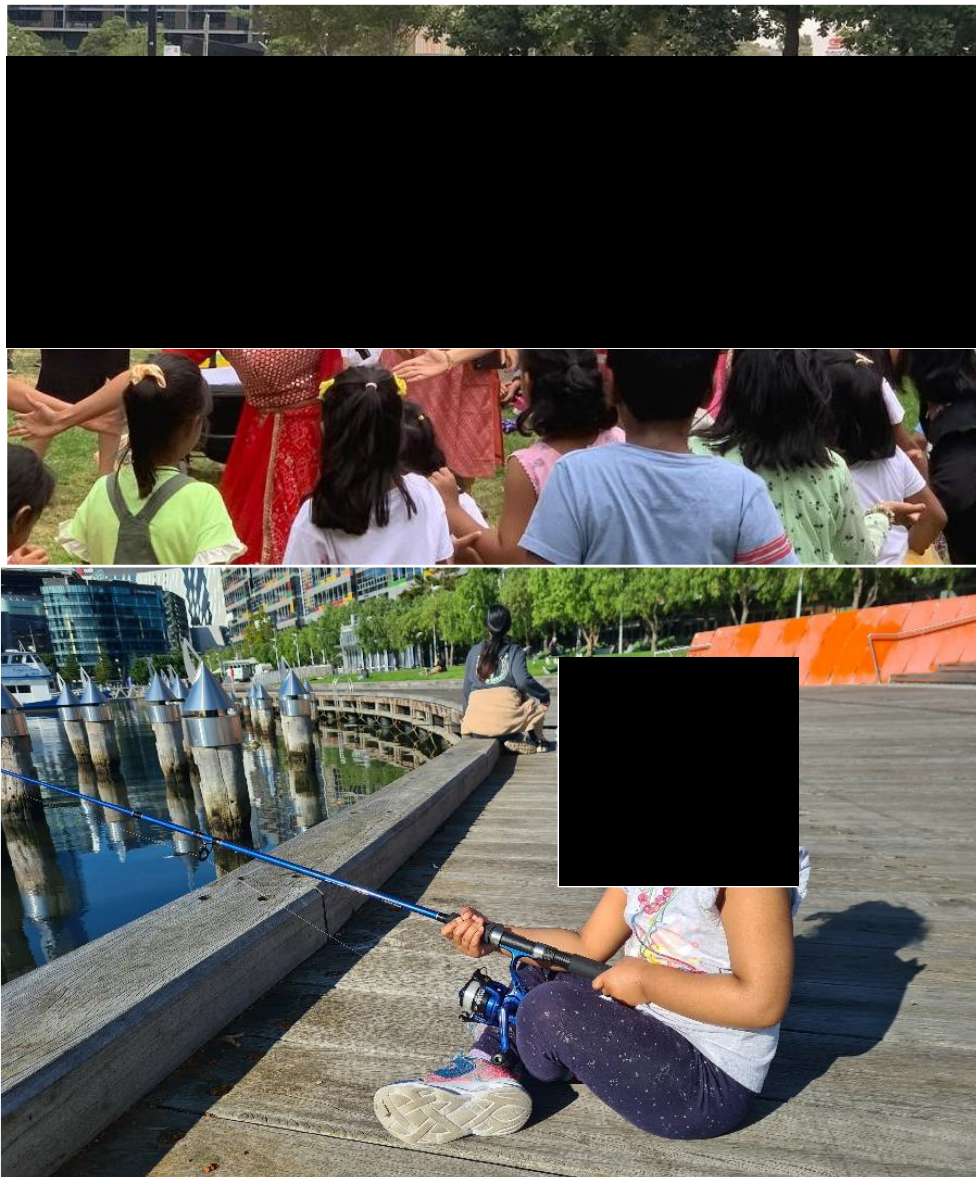
Docklands Neighbourhood House interim funding agreement Jan – Jun 2023

Funding Allocation

\$50,000

*What activities have taken place and what outcomes have been achieved to date?*

Docklands Neighbourhood House has established a suite of both regular and irregular programming in collaboration with Docklands community members and organisations, in addition to engaging in community development and advocacy projects.



## Weekly Programs

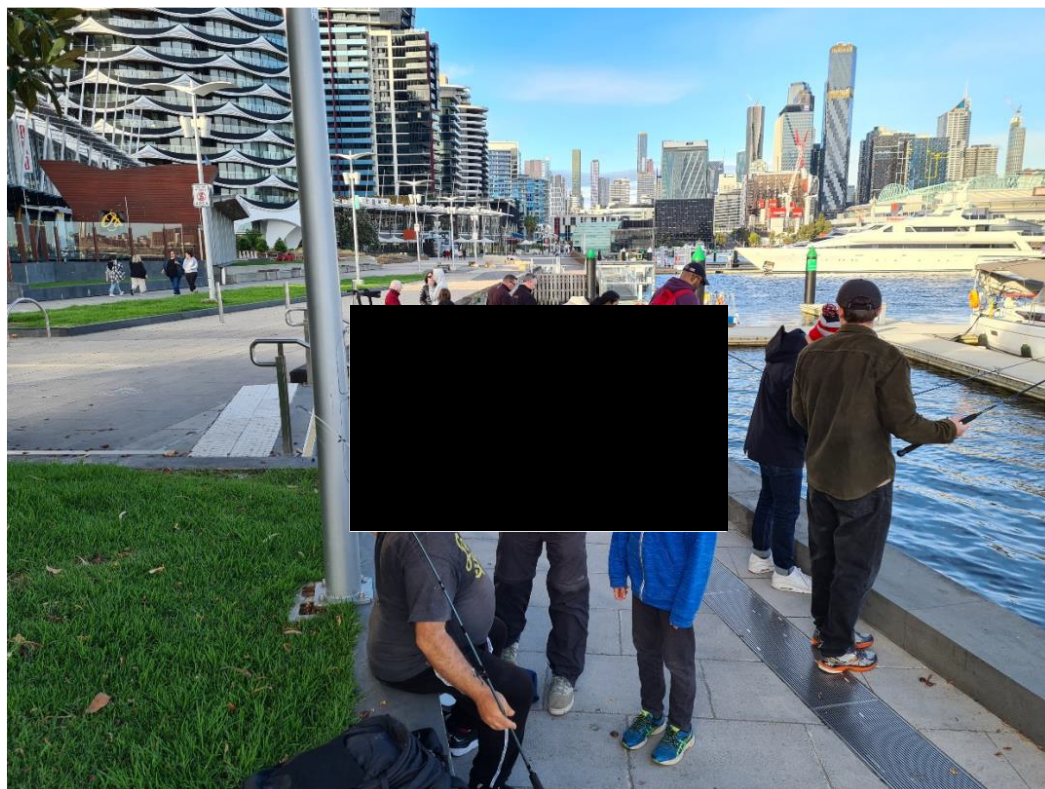
As of April 2023, Docklands Neighbourhood House has established approximately 132 regular weekly engagement hours spread between 50-60 people who participate in our programs on a weekly basis.

Current Weekly Programming				
Activity	Location	Neighbourhood Priority Addressed	Hours / week	Average attendance / session
Social Fishing Club (Wednesday afternoon and weekend)  (2 sessions)	New Quay Promenade / Victoria Harbour Promenade	Place-based initiatives and activations,  Local scale events,  community connection  + Docklands as a distinct water precinct	4.5	12
Friday Afternoon Play Session	Docklands Neighbourhood house	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection  + access & affordability	2	20
Docklands Homework Club	Library at the Dock	Community focused venues and facilities	1.5	13
Yoga and Pilates at the Marina  (2 sessions)	Melbourne City Marina	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection  + Sport & Recreation Spaces and Programs	2	6
Meditation and Wellbeing classes	Docklands Neighbourhood House  (Outside hours)	community connection  + Sport & Recreation Spaces and Programs	1	6
Casual Conversation Club	Docklands Neighbourhood House	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection	1	<i>Just started</i>

A brief description of each weekly program is provided below. The principal demographics of those participating in Docklands Neighbourhood House programs are **recent immigrants and young families**. However, each program attracts a different sector of the Docklands demographic, as noted in the descriptions.

- *Social Fishing Club*: started on Wednesday afternoons in 2022. This weekly program gets people fishing in the waters of Docklands. Experience is not necessary. The benefits of this program include building community connections, improved mental health, connection to place, increased food security. Normally run by a Docklands resident with fishing and

outdoor education experience. Attendees are mostly male; intergenerational family groups; recent arrivals, Docklands Primary School students, international students.



- *Friday Afternoon Play Sessions*: started towards the end of 2022 and have continued to be very popular. Parents attend with their children who get to play with a selection of toys and other activities provided by Melbourne Community Toy Library and Docklands Neighbourhood House. The informal sessions have benefits of building community connections, building language skills (both children and parents), socialisation skills & developmental skills (for children). Attendees are mostly recent arrivals (Indian, plus Middle Eastern, Chinese, and Malaysian); mostly mothers (but also fathers) with pre-school children.
- *Homework Club*: started in Term 1, in partnership with Docklands Primary School, Library @ The Dock and with funding from Australian Communities Foundation. Volunteer tutors (mostly Docklands residents) support students from the local primary school with learning support in a club-like atmosphere. The benefits include better academic advancement, better socialisation, fostering volunteering, connection to place. Attendees are upper primary school students, selected by Docklands Primary School according to need, very recently arrived in Australia.
- *Yoga & Pilates*: Started in late 2021, two weekly classes conducted by a professional practitioner. Benefits include improved physical and mental health, community connection. Attendees are overwhelmingly female, wide age range including seniors. Mixed cultural backgrounds.
- *Meditation and Wellbeing classes*: Commencing with two trial sessions in March 2023 in direct response to community feedback, these sessions are run by a Docklands local who is a qualified yoga and Reiki instructor. Sessions concentrate on breath, relaxation, meditation and mindfulness. Benefits include improved mental and physical health and community connection. Participants are mostly females 25-40. Indian background, plus mixed

- *Casual Conversation Club*: A new program in April 2023, this is run as a morning tea. This program has the specific purpose of bringing new arrivals and established Docklands residents together to build community connection and provide opportunity for those who wish to practice and improve English skills in a welcoming and casual environment.

Other Programs

In addition to our regular weekly programming, since January 2023 Docklands Neighbourhood House has also offered one-off or recurring irregular programming:

Irregular Courses and Programming			
Activity	Neighbourhood Priority Addressed	Hours	Attendance
Event Management Course	Community connection	5 x 4 hours	9
Vasant Celebration	Local scale events,  Place-based initiatives and activations,  community connection	3 hours	600
Community BBQs	Place-based initiatives and activations, Local scale events,  community connection	3 hours ~monthly	20 – 50
School Holiday Art Programs	Community focused venues and facilities,	4 x 2.5 hours ~quarterly	6 - 25
Meditation and Wellbeing workshops (trials)	Community focused venues and facilities	2 x 1 hours	24



A brief description of each irregular program is provided below:

- *Event Management Course:* Responding to The Centre's Docklands Community Needs Analysis this course guided participants through all stages of the event production process, using forthcoming community festivals as a template with hands-on, practical learning experience. Most participants volunteered for the organisation of Vasant.
- *Vasant Celebration:* Held at Buluk Park in February, the Vasant Festival ushered in Holi celebrations and featured performances by community members, dance workshops, children's art and Holi coloured powder making activities, and a special English and Hindi bilingual storytime at Library at the Dock. Produced by the Docklands Neighbourhood House Hindu Celebrations Planning Group, Vasant also gave opportunities to volunteer graduates of the Event Management course provided by The Centre.
- *Community BBQs:* These free monthly events are open to all and built around weekend sessions of the Social Fishing Club. Held at Victoria Harbour Dock and Melbourne City Marina (when available), the community BBQs provide an opportunity for community to connect with each other in a casual, friendly environment.



- *School Holiday Art Activities:* These activities are facilitated by a qualified art therapist. During the Term 1 school break, there were two sessions; one for 0–4-year-olds and another for 5 years and up. The popular sessions provide a range of art and craft activities for children and their parents/carers.
- *Meditation and Wellbeing workshops:* These workshops were free to attend and held as trial sessions of the upcoming Meditation and Wellbeing regular program mentioned above.

“Kids are having fun, learning new skills, and growing a new interest. Parents are also meeting new people and good little community growing” – Shekhar – Social Fishing Club participant and father of Shatakkee, 7yo (also participant)



### Community Engagement, Capacity Building, Volunteering and Advocacy

An important part of a Neighbourhood House is to provide a welcoming space for community members. Currently, Docklands Neighbourhood House is open three days per week (Wednesday to Friday), 12 noon – 6pm, and continues to provide open door access and referral, and to build community capacity through advocacy and engagement.

One vital aspect of Docklands Neighbourhood House is providing opportunities for Docklands residents to volunteer. Many of the existing programs, such as Social Fishing Club and Docklands Homework Club are volunteer-driven, and all the groups mentioned below are volunteer projects. Volunteerism is a key component of community empowerment. The Community Needs Analysis revealed a strong desire for many people to volunteer, and harnessing this will become a focus area in coming months.

Advocacy & Engagement	
"Open Door" Neighbourhood House Access	18 hours / week
Multicultural Women's Advocacy Group	Varies
Hindu Celebrations Planning Group	
The Centre Docklands Subcommittee	
Soul of Docklands	

- The *Multicultural Women's Advocacy Group* is a culturally diverse group of Docklands women residents. The group is concerned with advocating for culturally safe options for women in sport and recreation. This work is ongoing.
- The *Hindu Celebrations Planning Group* started in early 2022 and helped guide Holi, Navratri and Diwali celebrations last year. In 2023, they created Vasant and are working towards a celebration later in 2023.



- *The Centre Docklands Subcommittee* was formed in March as a subcommittee of The Centre Board. This committee comprises two Docklands residents, a Centre Board member and key staff. The Docklands Subcommittee advocates for the Docklands community and Docklands Neighbourhood House, both internally and externally. The Subcommittee met for the first time in April and will be providing recommendations on Docklands matters to The Centre's Board. This Subcommittee is viewed as an interim step in providing a more independence governance structure to oversee Docklands Neighbourhood House.
- *Soul of Docklands* is a portrait photography public art project still in the negotiation phase. A partnership between MAB, Lend Lease, Mirvac, Docklands Chamber of Commerce and Docklands Neighbourhood House, Soul of Docklands proposes to place large format photographs of Docklands residents on building hoardings and empty shopfronts, with a website for further interpretation.

*What activities have been planned for the next two months?*

In addition to continuing established programming as listed above (only with the exception of Events Management which will next be offered in August-September), the following new regular activities will be launched by DNH through May – June:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Priority Addressed</b>	<b>Hours / week</b>
Men's Group	Docklands Neighbourhood House  (Outside hours)	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection	2
Lunchtime School Hobby Clubs  (For Docklands Primary students using the District facilities)	Docklands Neighbourhood House	Community focused venues and facilities, community connection	3
<i>Additional Regular Weekly Programming</i>			7
<i>Total Weekly Regular Programming</i>			21

- *Men's Group*: A weekly group led by a qualified counsellor and psychotherapist, exploring ideas of negative and constructive masculinity, with particular emphasis on developing positive male role models in parenting.
- *Lunchtime School Hobby Clubs*: Docklands Neighbourhood House will engage with Docklands Primary School to host these hobby clubs for students using the District facilities to engage in a range of creative- and interest-based activities. This program reflects feedback from members of the DPS Parents' Council.

DNH will also continue to build engagement and participation through upcoming irregular programming.

Irregular Courses and Programming		
Activity	Neighbourhood Priorities Addressed	Hours
Digital Storytelling: Podcasting Course	Community connection + Access & Affordability	2 x 4 hours
Personal & Family Finances	+ Access & Affordability	6 x 2 hours
Docklands Repair Café	Community focused venues and facilities, Place-based initiatives and activations, community connection	3 hours every second month



Children's Arts Activity

- *Digital Storytelling: Podcasting course:* A two-part course teaching participants the fundamentals of podcasting from episode planning, research, and interview skills and presentation through to audio production and editing. This program is planned to lead to the establishment of a 'Docklands Radio' style monthly podcast, featuring street interviews with residents, local businesses and visitors to the area and providing Docklands residents a forum to discuss issues important to the community.
- *Personal and Family Finances course:* A 6-session course building the capacity of community members to plan and administer finances amid these times of increasing financial pressures, discussing family and personal budgeting, understanding the taxation and superannuation systems, and planning for financial security in the future.
- *Docklands Repair Café:* Re-established at Library @ The Dock in partnership with Docklands Representative Group and the Library Makerspace, the Repair Café will promote community connection through skill-sharing, and sustainability through building community capacity to maintain and fix items rather than dispose of them.

*Have there been any problems that have come up so far and how have you addressed them?*

*Facility Limitations:* Currently Docklands Neighbourhood House operates from a single-room shopfront on the ground floor of The District Docklands shopping centre. These premises are not fit-for-purpose for a Neighbourhood House, which restricts the nature and number of programs that can be delivered from the premises. The location also limits the range of cohorts that visit and engage with the Neighbourhood House. The specific issues faced are:

- *Lack of readily accessible amenities.* The nearest toilet facilities available to participants engaged in activities at DNH are a minimum of 5 minutes' walk away. Adding to this challenge, our duty of care under child safety regulations means all minors must be always accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- *Noise and distraction from The District:* Pedestrian noise, music, and distraction from outside DNH premises have also influenced the nature and timing of the programs run from our premises.
- *DNH physical space:* The need to facilitate programs as well as work from the single-room DNH premises has led to challenges in both activity scheduling and staff time-management.

The Docklands Neighbourhood House team has dealt with these issues by working around them as best as possible. Activities at Docklands Neighbourhood House generally are limited to 1.5 hours; noise-sensitive programs are scheduled when The District is quiet and staff not trying to do planning / administration work, and; programs are scheduled at alternative venues to fit the requirements of particular programs and participants.

One other issue is that many of our free activities are fully subscribed through online bookings. However, not everyone who books actually attends the program, meaning some programs are under-capacity while others who wanted to attend miss out. This issue is not unique to Docklands Neighbourhood House. We are attempting to deal with this issue by making personalised contact with those who booked in the 24 hours before the program and maintaining a waiting list.

*Have you spent all or part of the first instalment of the grant funding?*

Yes, partially spent.

*Approximately how much of the funding has been spent?*

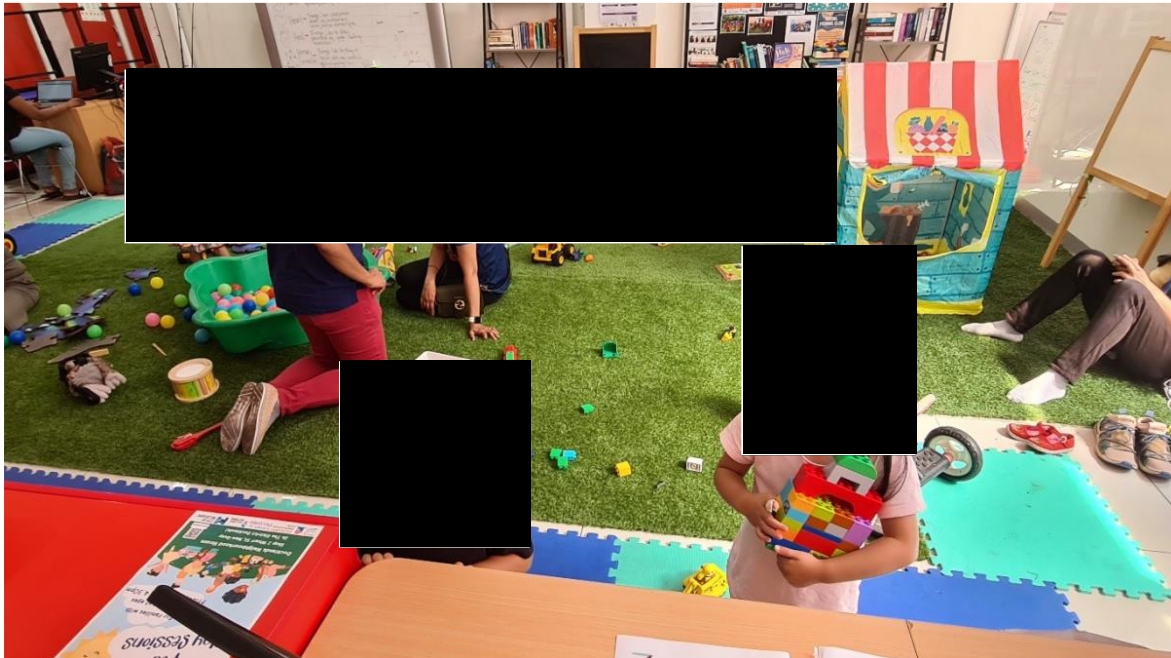
\$34,000

The vast majority of funding allocated has been spent on wages, specifically Community Development Coordinator and Community Outreach Facilitator. Remaining expenditure has been on program (e.g., facilitator fees and materials) and facilities costs.

Staffing for Docklands Neighbourhood House is:

- Jason Butcher, Community Development Officer, 0.8 EFT, fully dedicated to Docklands Program
- Dhanya Nair, Community Outreach Facilitator [Hindu bicultural worker], 0.3 EFT, fully dedicated to Docklands Program. This role has recently grown to 0.5 to include marketing function across Docklands Neighbourhood House and The Centre, North Melbourne
- Khalid Farah, Community Development Co-ordinator, 0.6 EFT, works at Docklands one day per week.
- Ariel Valent, The Centre Director, who provides management oversight
- Craig Barry, The Centre CEO/CIO, who provides financial and operational support

Beyond the City of Melbourne interim funding, Docklands Neighbourhood House is funded by Australian Communities Foundation which supports the Docklands Homework Club program and through fees and charges for yoga, Pilates and meditation classes. We are also receiving a small wage subsidy through the Victorian Government Digital Jobs initiative. The Centre meets the shortfall from its reserves.



Friday Afternoon Play Sessions

*What steps will be taken to ensure that the project is completed successfully?*

Docklands Neighbourhood House and The Centre are committed to seeing this project through to completion by June, with the hope that Docklands Neighbourhood House will continue beyond this period.

The following strategies will be pursued which have both short-term and longer-term benefits:

- Follow the key recommendations of the recently completed Docklands Community Needs Analysis conducted by The Centre.
- Empowerment of the newly formed Docklands Subcommittee (of The Centre Board) to provide governance oversight of, and advocacy for, Docklands Neighbourhood House.
- Staff are contracted and committed through to end of June and willing to be extended
- Positive external relationships and partnerships have been developed and will be maintained.
- A volunteering program will be developed to engage more community members in Docklands Neighbourhood House operations, increasing community ownership and participation in the organisation.

## Comments

*Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the progress of the project?*

The operation of Docklands Neighbourhood House has been very successful from January to April. Most programs have provided tangible benefits for the participants and the longevity of the programs are indicators of their community value. Whilst not everything we have tried has flourished, this is not a fundamental problem, as the Neighbourhood House context allows for small-scale experimentation to assess community interest and feedback.

While the overwhelming majority of our participants are from Docklands, we are also drawing participants from CBD and Southbank. These neighbouring suburbs have some similarities to Docklands in terms of lifestyle, demographics and minimal community infrastructure. We have identified a future growth opportunity for Docklands Neighbourhood House to service these populations.

The staffing and resources of Docklands Neighbourhood House are small. Maximising impact through **collaboration** is both a deliberate community development strategy and a financial necessity. Our partnerships include the following:

<i>Docklands Homework Club</i>	Docklands Primary School Library @ The Dock
<i>Docklands Repair Café</i>	YMCA Docklands Representative Group Library @ The Dock
<i>New Quay Yoga and Pilates</i>	Premium Fitness Melbourne City Marina
<i>Friday Afternoon Play Sessions</i>	Melbourne Community Toy Library
<i>Social Fishing Club</i>	Melbourne City Marina Victorian Fisheries Authority
<i>Social and Cultural Events</i>	Docklands Chamber of Commerce Docklands Sports Clubs Sarascare Library at the Dock

Docklands Neighbourhood House has strong connections to different parts of City of Melbourne. We particularly value our relationship with Fadi Qunqar, Neighbourhood Partner for Docklands. There is a shared understanding of the Neighbourhood Priorities, and a willingness to share information and collaborate. We also have a positive and developing relationship with Library @ The Dock, with Vasant, Docklands Homework Club and Docklands Repair Café (proposed) taking place at the venue. The relationship with the Waterways team is also a strength which we look forward to building on more in the future.



# strategic



## development group

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The Centre, Docklands Neighbourhood House

# Community Needs Analysis

Final Version April 2023

## Executive Summary

The Docklands Neighbourhood House (DNH) was established in 2019 with an initial grant through the City of Melbourne's Social Innovation Partnerships program. A further tranche of funding was received from Development Victoria that expired at the end of December 2022. Both City of Melbourne and Development Victoria are funding DNH through to June 2023.

The DNH started operations just as the extended COVID-19 the lockdown period commenced. However, the DNH managed throughout the two-year period to implement activities as restrictions allowed, and since they have eased, great strides in engagement and delivering activities with the community have been made.

[Strategic Development Group](#) (Strategic) was engaged to work cooperatively with DNH on the **design of and delivery of an *action-research* based community needs analysis (CNA)**. The *action-research* approach was used to allow data for the purpose of the CNA to be collected through integrating processes with existing scheduled activities, and then iteratively apply the findings to inform ongoing planning of activities. The methodology employed consisted of E Survey, interviews and small groups discussions and a document review.

The key objectives set for the CNA were to connect with the community and seek advice and ideas on their preferences and interests in engaging with the DNH. It was anticipated that the evidence generated would measure the impact of the DNH's existing programs and inform recommendations for future strategies. **Certain limitations** impacted on the extent that the methodology was able to be effectively applied and the objectives set were fulfilled.

The framework applied to present findings and recommendations of the CNA consisted of three areas that are about the:

- **Organisation** - capacity and coordination and collaboration with others
- **Community** – empowerment and social cohesion
- **People** – individual connections to place and people, and their health and well-being

These outcome areas are also the elements being measured in the monitoring evaluation and learning framework that was also designed by Strategic and the DNH as part of this project.

The key findings and recommendations are:

### Organisation

Partnership with community organisations has been central to the delivery of DNH's activities. While extensive work has been undertaken by DNH to build partnerships with community organisations, there is still a lack of visibility of the neighbourhood house within the community and there is



potential for DNH to increase the breadth and depth of collaboration with other organisations (public and private) in Docklands.

#### Recommendations

- i. **Continue to actively connect and coordinate with other community organisations and agencies** to share information and seek areas for collaboration; and explore opportunities with other community stakeholders to improve suburb-wide coordination and communication between organisations and with the community.
- ii. **Prioritise engagement with the local primary school** in line with City of Melbourne and the Docklands Summit's focus on responding to the increase in families living in the area.
- iii. **Dedicate resources** (staff and budget) to support ongoing meaningful community development, recognising it is an ongoing process that requires investment of time and dedicated resources to genuinely implement cooperative design and delivery of activities and events with community members and community located organisations.
- iv. **Explore options to increase visibility of the DNH** that may include moving to new premises with street frontage, improving signage, continuing mobile 'community located' engagement (DNH bicycle) and promote through engagement with other organisations
- v. **Continue to draw on the organisational strengths of The Centre**, whilst simultaneously developing a long-term plan for a model of more independent operation of DNH.

#### Community

The multicultural makeup of the Docklands community is both a challenge and strength of the precinct. The research showed strong support for continuing and increasing culturally aware engagement and events. There is strong interest and expressed commitment from community members to contribute in different ways in a volunteer capacity which will assist the DNH to expand its work and will foster greater levels of community empowerment and cohesion.

#### Recommendations

- i. **Continue to host and facilitate cultural festivals** by utilising the existing working groups and mobilising the interest of many volunteers offering support.
- ii. **Continue engagement with members of the CALD community** in culturally safe and accessible ways through working with and through community members and established channels of communication; providing interpreters and translation of information as needed. The recruitment of more locally based bicultural workers to the staff is encouraged.
- iii. **Empower community advocacy groups** to identify priorities within the community and support the activities to address them.

#### People

The Docklands community has highlighted the need to focus on social and recreational events. Participants in the DNH activities clearly articulate the positive multiple benefits they have gained, and they are keen to continue to participate more in the future. A lack of awareness among the wider community members about DNH and limited engagement of DNH with certain segments of the community hinders the reach and benefit of existing events and activities.

#### Recommendations

- i. **Continue to increase awareness of the DNH and its activities** through different channels including open day / open house, connecting with the school community (parents association, newsletter,

school assembly) and through social media, and 'word of mouth' generated through other community groups and organisation and volunteers.

- ii. **Prioritise social and recreational aspects in future programming** such as sporting groups and social conversations groups, with particular focus on children, families, CALD groups and new arrivals.
- iii. **Seek out less visible members of the community** for example the hidden less affluent, homeless people and young single professional people. Through participatory strengths-based engagement, seek to better understand their perspectives and aspirations as Docklands residents and explore ways that DNH may best contribute.

**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Ekaterina Send

**Email address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Phone number \***

[REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Agenda item title:** Docklands Neighbourhood House appeal

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

This submission is an appeal for the City of Melbourne to provide funding for the Docklands Neighbourhood House on behalf of Docklands Primary School parents and as well as other Docklands residents.

The approach that the Council is taking in the community development planning field seems to be contrary to any community development theories that I am aware of as the decision for Docklands to be left without a neighbourhood house might indicate that the Executive Leadership Team does not understand the unique and irreplaceable niche of neighbourhood houses in the social fabrics of Australia.

I will use a practical example to illustrate my point. I am asking the Councillors and the Executive Leadership Team to read the email attached to this submission.

I learned about a person that lives in Docklands and have incredible talent in knitting. The person is retired.

Retirement is a challenging time when life slows down and you find yourself isolated from the life that you previously had. Some people keep themselves busy, but many just stay at home and eventually fade from the bright

colours of social prints, well before their time. This is a loss. Loss to you and me, to themselves and to future generations. We all will be them when our time comes.

Knitting will soon become a lost art as lots of other crafts that once have been enjoyed by so many. There is a beauty in seeing the humanity's heritage skill to be transferred to new generations. Neighbourhood houses are places that make this happen.

Many people from immigrant families, or those living in medium/high density housing can lack exposure to older generations, and vice versa for those downsizing to apartment living later in life. My child sees his grandparents only once every several years. Neighbourhood Houses provide that opportunity to bring together generations.

Why do we need neighbourhood houses:

- They help to share the wisdom of older generations with the youngsters.
- They help elderly to live independently longer and they are doing it better than any virtual assistant or a vacuum robot.
- They help people not to feel lonely and isolated at a minimal or no cost.
- Neighbourhood houses are a very cost-effective alternative to many mental health services as it is a preventive measure that is agile to the needs of the community right there and right now.
- They are a place where people are not numbers.
- They are a place that can welcome people that fall through the cracks of multiple government systems.

The unique and irreplaceable role of neighbourhood houses is in being the community startup incubators in their local area. Government is a large and slow to move institution. It thinks in strategies and plans that nowadays do not work well. We now live in a very fast changing environment when you can't effectively plan for longer than a year ahead.

Neighbourhood Houses incubate and support the ideas coming from the community quickly, cheaply and while they are still fresh. Like with business startups many new community ideas fail, but the right environment keeps brewing them constantly and the most effective and in demand will stay. This is a function of a neighbourhood house – to give an environment for community ideas to brew and to connect ideas with social investors quickly.

Neighbourhood houses are the best Council's Community Development Team friends as they correct the deformities of the local and state government planning. They respond with agility and flexibility to the real demand that exists in the community. They are the meeting point of supply and demand tailored precisely to the local environment and local people.

Many years ago, a neighbourhood house changed my life, life of a new immigrant, a student and an exhausted

mother all in one cup. That's why I am here in front of you instead of cooking dinner at home for my family. However, this is a story for another time.

Councils often run neighbourhood houses successfully. Advantage of neighbourhood houses being run by a specific-purpose organisation like The Centre is in the real time connections with networks and instant access to experience of other community centres and neighbourhood houses.

We are asking Council to use the highest-level expertise in the community development and a bit of common sense to make decisions that affect our communities. To be an engineer of human lives is a completely different level of responsibility. We hope that the Council is ready to take on this responsibility.

We also hoped to run recess and lunch clubs for Docklands Primary School students of the temporary campus at the Docklands Neighbourhood House with the neighbourhood house's assistance, which would give our children more space and more learning opportunities. We would dream to have elderly community members to run the clubs through the Docklands Neighbourhood House. Please make this happen!

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[email\\_knitting\\_classes\\_at\\_dnh.pdf](#) 813.21 KB · PDF

Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: \*

Yes

If yes, please indicate if you would like to make your submission in person, or via a virtual link (Zoom)

I wish to make my submission in person

---

to the meeting.

Please note,

physical

attendance will be

limited in

accordance with

City of Melbourne

security protocols

and COVID-safe

plans and be

allocated on a first

registered, first

served basis. \*

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## Ekaterina Send

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**From:** Jason Butcher [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 May 2023 10:29 AM  
**To:** Ekaterina Send  
**Cc:** Khalid Farah  
**Subject:** RE: Idea: knitting classes

Hi Katy,

I love both ideas! Do you think she'd be interested in teaching knitting to beginners? I had explored the idea of a knitting afternoon tea group last year, but unfortunately it didn't work out with the community member I was talking with. In fact, we still have some yarn, needles, etc around the NH.

I'd be more than happy to have a chat with her wherever she is available. I've cc'd Khalid, our new(ish) Community Development Coordinator, in on this, since we were both just discussing programming when you emailed.

Chat soon!

Cheers,  
Jason

Kind regards,  
Jason Butcher  
**Community Development Officer**  
Pronouns He/Him  
(working days: Tuesday – Friday)



58 Errol Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051

Ph: [REDACTED]

Mob: [REDACTED]



The Centre respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are located, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) peoples of the Kulin Nation, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

The Centre is committed to safe and inclusive workplaces, policies and services to LGBTQI+ individuals, communities and families.

This email is intended solely for the named addressee.  
If you are not the addressee indicated please delete it immediately.

---

**From:** Ekaterina Send [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 9:53 AM  
**To:** Jason Butcher [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Idea: knitting classes

Jason, hi

How have you been?

I had a conversation with a local Docklands resident, whose wife enjoys knitting. They are both retired now. I promoted an idea of getting out of the house and meeting people through the Docklands Neighbourhood House. The husband discussed this with his wife and said that there is a slight chance that she might be interested. I will have a coffee with them in the next two weeks to see how strong the interest is.

I am going to propose for her to do either knitting classes or a book club, both are her interests. I do not know her. It might be too much a pioneer idea for her, but worth a try, I think.

What do you think of having knitting classes or a book club at the DNH? She is really good at knitting and even is designing patterns for the Bendigo Woollen Mill.

Kind regards,  
Katy



**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Anita Donnelly

**Email address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Phone number \***

[REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Agenda item title:** Parking plan

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Docklands is already failing and you introduce paid parking until 10pm and on Sundays. That will not help the residents or businesses. The only time friends and family visit locals, is on Sundays and now you're asking them to pay for parking? Why does every other CoM suburb receive visitor parking permits except Docklands? These are even more important and needed for Docklands ratepayers now that you're introducing paid parking at night and on Sundays. When will you introduce visitor parking permits, one per home, for Docklands residents?

**Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: \*** No

**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Nick Hall

**Email address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Phone number \***

[REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Agenda item title: \***

6.4 Parking and kerbside management

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Can the council explain how the management plan debunks the myths identified? I see many of the words in the plan reinforcing the myths, especially that overall on street parking for visitors is essential to the city's rejuvenation.

**Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: \***

No

**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Kyna Leong

**Email address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Phone number \***

[REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Agenda item title:** New Parking Management plan is atrociously inconsiderate

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

The new parking management plan is so inconsiderate for both businesses in the CBD and residents.

For those of us who are lucky enough to call the City of Melbourne home, this new parking plan aims to isolate us and drive us away from the city. If my friends have to pay upwards of \$15 or even up to \$25 and also have to move their cars after 2hrs just to come visit me after 7pm even on weekends, they will all stop visiting me. In times like now, no one has that kind of money they can afford to throw away. All my friends will stop visiting and I will be forced to go to other's places all the time rather than be able to have friends over for a nice dinner. This is also extra cost to me in my transport costs.

The new parking plans also penalise me for going to visit my local shops. I had to return a microwave to kmart this week and with the new proposals that would have cost me \$10. How is this fair?

Meters all the way to 10pm at night will drive people away from having dinners in the city, it will simply encourage people coming just to club and drink and be drunkards in the city adding to the general rowdiness of the city evenings and attract the wrong type of people – we want people who come to actually enjoy the best things the city can offer.

Paid parking on the weekends also encourages people not to come in when they are free on the weekends which is honestly when you want people to come and spend time in the city. All the businesses will suffer.

It all seems like a pretentious attempt to make things simpler when really the proposal is all about making money from fines and parking meters. I would prefer to decipher the previously confusing signs. Do not make these changes. They are bad for everyone except the council coffers which really don't need that much more support given how much I'm having to pay in my rates.

**Please indicate**      No  
**whether you**  
**would like to**  
**verbally address**  
**the Future**  
**Melbourne in**  
**support of your**  
**submission: \***

---

**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Wayne Gatt

**Email address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Phone number \***

[REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Agenda item title: \***

6.4 Parking and Kerbside Management Plan

Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:



[submission\\_future\\_melbourne\\_committee\\_the\\_police\\_association\\_victoria.pdf](#)

192.66 KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: \***

No



# THE POLICE ASSOCIATION VICTORIA

15 May 2023

Lord Mayor Sally Capp  
Chair

The Future Melbourne Committee (FMC)

via online submission and email to: [com.meetings@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:com.meetings@melbourne.vic.gov.au)

Dear Lord Mayor

**SUBMISSION: Future Melbourne Committee Meeting: Wednesday 16 May**

**AGENDA ITEM: 6.4 Parking and Kerbside Management Plan**

The Police Association Victoria ('The Association') is an organisation that exists to advance and represent the industrial, legal, professional and welfare interests of its members. The Association's membership of approximately 18000 is drawn exclusively from sworn Police Officers at any rank, Protective Services Officers, Police Reservists and Police Recruits who serve in Victoria Police. Membership of the Association is voluntary. By virtue of its constitution, the Association is not affiliated with any political party.

Police Association members work across a range of police stations in the Central Business District. The Melbourne East Police Station located at 202 Bourke Street and the Victoria Police Centre at 313 Spencer Street cumulatively domicile approximately vctoria emergency service workers. The majority of these, are operational police officers and PSOs who are first responders, required to work shift work on a 24/7 basis.

Working and policing the CBD and surrounds is a unique construct. Few members who work in the CBD live in or near it, with the majority commuting to work owing to the absence of suitable public and commercial parking options. Kerbside parking is not suitable on weekdays owing to time restrictions that would preclude police and PSO workers who work 8-10 hour shifts and are unable to return to their vehicles to comply with local laws. The majority of our members also report that the commercial options available to police are expensive and cost prohibitive. Parking for police workers is not provided by Victoria Police<sup>1</sup> at either facility despite availability owing to congestion charges for which Victoria Police is liable and other operational concerns. Accordingly, most members use public transport to attend work during business hours or day shift.

<sup>1</sup> Letter to Secretary from Karl Kent OAM, Deputy Secretary Information Technology and Infrastructure Services.

Members are regularly required to work afternoon and night shifts and also commence work after 6pm. They will often drive to work during these shifts to enable them to return home after public transport has stopped running, and to leave police premises more safely. For these shifts, police often use public parking which is less impacted by regulations at these times (ie after 6pm) and on weekends.

Victoria Police is one of the few emergency services that operates a large emergency/essential service from within the CBD grid. The most similar employers are hospitals which operate at the city fringe but also have dedicated and significant car parking available.

Police are not attending the CBD for recreation, they do so to work and often at short notice or with a requirement to work and be available for unforeseen overtime or to support emergencies at times when public transport is limited or unavailable. It is for these reasons that the Association is concerned about the detrimental impact that will be experienced by our members who work in the CBD every day at these times.


Current changes proposed by Council to extend parking charges and introduce an off-peak rate of \$4 per hour in the CBD on Saturdays and Sundays and after 7pm on weekdays will limit the options available to police officers and PSOs, compounding the impact already felt by them during afternoon and night shift work. While the current proposal excludes areas like Adderley Street (beyond the boundary of Spencer Street) we are concerned, that should these changes go further, or extend into these areas, the impact on police required to work in the CBD would be significant in the short and longer term.

Police would immediately confront a financial impact in being unable to use many of the parking options they are presently accustomed to using, and further in the long run, unmitigated, these complications will disincentivise police from choosing to work in the CBD.

Accordingly, we do not support the introduction of an off-peak rate in the CBD on Saturdays and Sundays and after 7pm on weekdays, on the basis that there is no provision in any way for essential or emergency service workers who rely on current parking arrangements to support their work.

Should Council resolve to move forward with this proposal, we request it engages with The Police Association to explore arrangements which might support the attendance of police workers at CBD based police stations afterhours and on weekends.

Yours sincerely

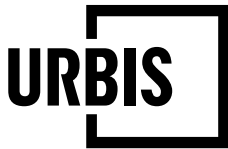
A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Wayne Gatt.

WAYNE GATT

**Secretary**

<b>Privacy acknowledgement: *</b>	I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.
<b>Name: *</b>	Anna Barclay
<b>Email address: *</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Phone number *</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Date of meeting: *</b>	Tuesday 16 May 2023
<b>Agenda item title: *</b>	Planning Permit Application: TP-2022-474 82-84 Jolimont Street, East Melbourne
<b>Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit <u>by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.</u> Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.</b>	The attached documents provide detail from the building surveyor and architect that demonstrate that the proposed shadows result from the lift requirements in the Building Regulations. I will be available at the meeting over Zoom to answer any questions that may arise regarding this application.
<b>Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: *</b>	No





**LEVEL 10**  
**477 COLLINS STREET**  
**MELBOURNE VIC 3000**

URBIS.COM.AU  
Urbis Pty Ltd  
ABN 50 105 256 228

15 May 2023

[REDACTED]  
Melbourne City Council  
Council House 2,  
240 Little Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Matthew

**APPLICATION NO. TP-2022-474**  
**82 JOLIMONT STREET, EAST MELBOURNE**  
**SUBMISSION REGARDING SOUTHERN EXTENT OF LEVEL 4**

Urbis continues to act for East Melbourne Investments Pty Ltd with respect to the above-mentioned application, to be determined at the Future Melbourne Committee meeting on 4 April 2023.

The proposed development makes use of the existing building's structure on site.

We are writing to provide additional context regarding the extent of level 4 of the building, which is the reason for the shadowing slightly beyond that permitted under the seriously entertained DDO8. The additional extent of the building to the south is a result of functional requirements relating to the lift shaft.

A wider lift shaft is necessary to allow for a stretcher lift compliant with the Building Regulations 2018. For detail on these requirements, as well as the impact of the requirement on the built form, please refer to the enclosed letter prepared by Nicolas Building Surveyors (14 March 2023), and annotated plan prepared by Denton Corker Marshall. The annotated plan shows the extent of the lift shaft that would be required to provide the stretcher lift compliant with Clause E3.2. The shaft cannot be extended to the north as that would impinge on the existing fire egress path of the building.

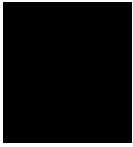
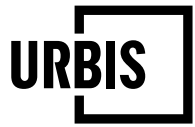
The application documents previously provided to Council demonstrate the overall net reduction in shadow. We understand the reason for FMC consideration is the additional 1.3 sqm at 10am and 1.0 sqm at 3pm. Substantial reductions in shadow occur at other times of day.

We understand that Council planning officers are in support of the application and look forward to Council's decision.

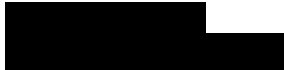
We trust that the above and enclosed assists in Council's consideration of the application. Should you have any questions please contact Robert Doherty on [REDACTED] or [REDACTED], or myself at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

82 JOLIMONT STREET, EAST MELBOURNE –  
SUBMISSION REGARDING SOUTHERN EXTENT OF LEVEL 4



Anna Barclay  
Director





**N I C O L A S**  
BUILDING SURVEYORS

14 March 2022

Urbis  
Olderfleet, Level 10, 477 Collins Street  
Melbourne, Vic 3000, Australia

Dear Anna Barclay,

**RE: Change of Use from Offices to Apartments –82 Jolimont St, East Melbourne  
Relevant Building Surveyor Comments**

The application for the abovementioned project relates to the proposed change of use and two-floor extension to an existing class 5 office building to class 2 apartments with a ground floor shared carpark (7a).

It is noted that the building is served by an existing lift shaft which is currently serving 5 levels (Ground – Level 4). However, the proposed building extension increases the existing effective height of 12.9m to 16.27m. It is understood that the existing building was built prior to the requirements of Clause E3.2 for stretcher lift compliance given the effective height was greater than 12m. Due to the new proposed usage and extension, it is therefore considered that a Stretcher Lift would be required to be installed pursuant to Clause E3.2.

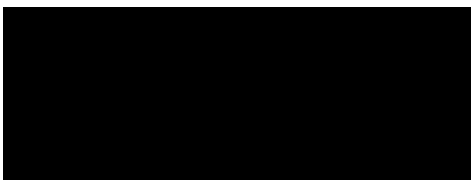
Clause E3.2 requires a stretcher lift to be installed to a building in which the lift serves any storey at an *effective height* greater than 12m above the natural ground level (street alignment). The requirements for a stretcher lift is to provide a clear space not less than 600mm wide x 2000mm long x 1400mm high above the floor level. This is to accommodate a raised stretcher with a patient lying on it horizontally.

The services engineer has advised that in order to accommodate a lift car with internal dimensions of at least 2000mm long, the lift shaft would need to be typically approximately 2450mm x 2550mm (Width x Depth) overall to allow for multiple manufacturers and flexibility in tender (i.e. in order to obtain competitive quotes).

The overall internal dimensions of the existing lift shaft are approximately 2320mm deep, which is insufficient to install a stretch lift that requires an overall depth of 2000mm.

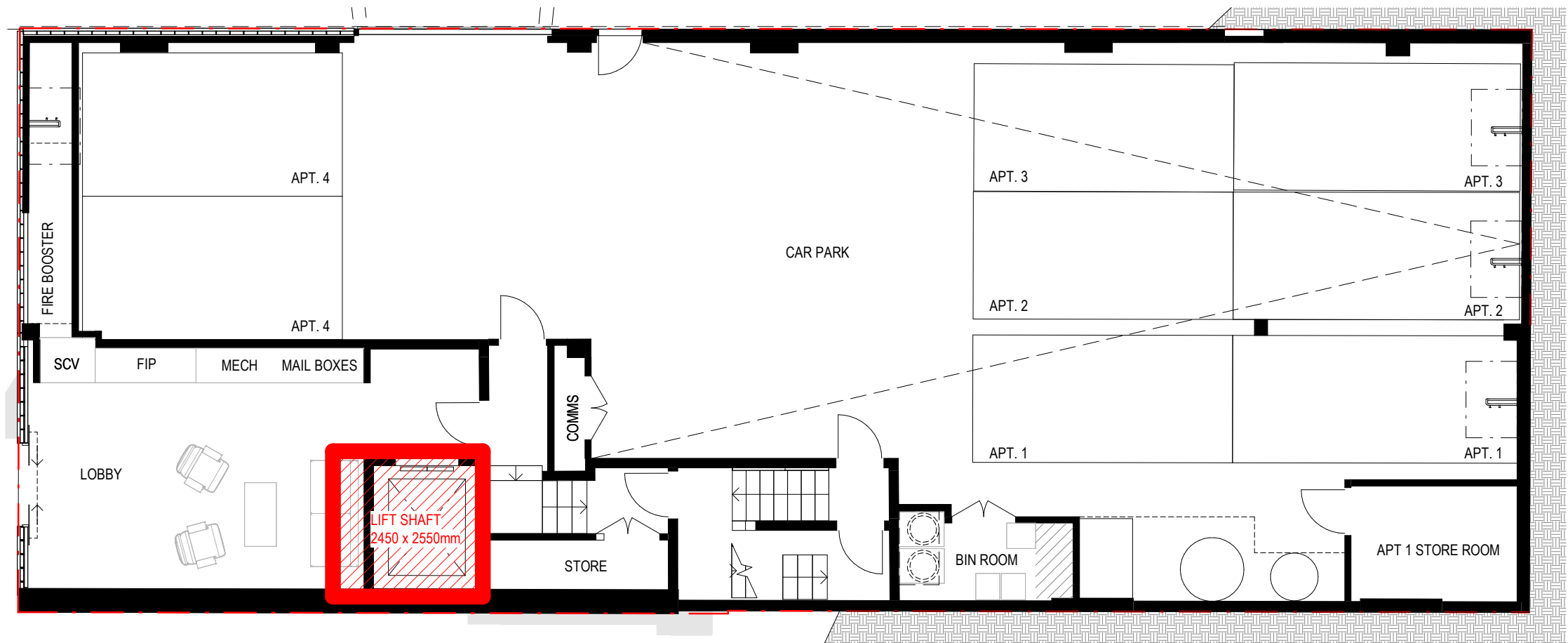
Should you have any queries with respect to the above please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Your faithfully,

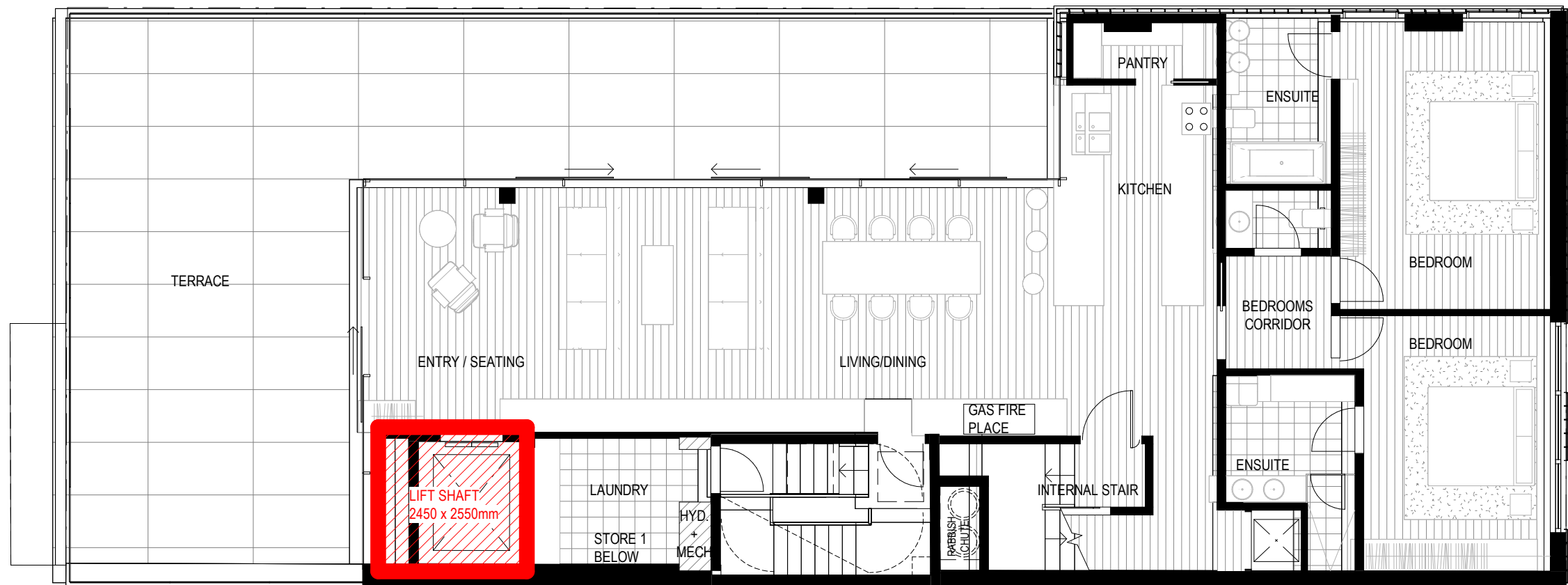


Will Mackie  
**Senior Associate**

***For and on behalf of Nicolas Building Surveyors***



1 **GROUND FLOOR PLAN**  
SCALE 1:100



2 **LEVEL 04**  
SCALE 1:100

D0361 SK026  
1:100 @ A3  
0 1 2 3M

**DENTON  
CORKER  
MARSHALL**

**82 Jolimont Street**  
**East Melbourne Investments**

**STRETCHER LIFT SHAFT  
OVERLAY**

**Privacy acknowledgement: \***

I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

**Name: \***

Kaye Oddie

**Email address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Phone number \***

[REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \***

Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Agenda item title: \***

6.8 Brunswick Level Crossing Removals

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting.**

Please see attached submission.

**Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

**Alternatively you may attach your written submission by uploading your file here:**



[forp\\_submission\\_to\\_fm\\_committee\\_16\\_may\\_agenda\\_item\\_6.8.pdf](#)

268.28 KB · PDF

**Please indicate whether you would like to verbally address the Future Melbourne in support of your submission: \***

No



Post: PO Box 197, Parkville VIC 3052  
www.royalpark.org.au  
Email: friendsofroyalpark@gmail.com  
A0054623L ABN 95 911 785 732

14/5/23

Mayor and Councillors  
Future Melbourne Committee  
City of Melbourne

## MEETING 16 MAY – AGENDA ITEM 6.8

### BRUNSWICK LEVEL CROSSING REMOVALS POSITION PAPER

The Friends of Royal Park, Parkville thanks the City of Melbourne for preparing a Position Paper on the Level Crossing Removals Project in relation to Royal Park. The report is comprehensive and covers most aspects of concerns of the Friends of Royal Park – with exceptions calling for greater emphasis on:

- Lighting and noise
- Royal Park Station intersection upgrade
- Pedestrian safety on shared paths
- Habitat value of trees
- Heritage rail gates and gatekeeper’s cabin

and importantly - **deletion of the report’s proposal that the skyrail be made higher to accommodate a bridge joining north and south sections of the park:**

#### 7.1 Improve connectivity within Royal Park

*“The Brunswick LXP provides an opportunity to deliver improved physical connections across the railway within Royal Park. The Royal Park Master Plan advocates for a link across the Upfield railway line to improve connections within the parklands. The Master Plan proposes a bridge across the rail cutting....*

*..... The proposed rail-over-road solution for the removal of the level crossing at Park Street will provide a new opportunity to reduce fragmentation of Royal Park by providing a connection beneath the new viaduct. **Continuing the raised railway on a viaduct as far south as practical** would allow for connection between the Capital City Trail, Poplar Oval and Royal Park Tennis Club to the three sports ovals and Ryder Pavilion to the west of the rail corridor.*

**This is totally opposed as it will increase the negative impacts of the elevated skyrail on Royal Park - on visual amenity, noise and light and Royal Park’s landscape character.** The location and form of the bridge connection must **not** be part of the LXP (where planning processes are absolved under the Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009), but subject to alternative design options through the Royal Park Master Plan review.

In regard to the Position Paper, we would ask the FM Committee to amend the Position Paper in keeping with our comments and as highlighted below:

## 1. Executive Summary

### Integration of the project into Royal Park and surrounds

City of Melbourne recommends that the project design:

- allows for a link across the Upfield railway line in accordance with the Royal Park Master Plan.
- upgrades any shared paths impacted by the project to encourage and support increased active transport, ensuring safety of pedestrians on shared paths, including the Capital City Trail.

Add dot points:

- no loss of parkland
- minimises detrimental lighting impacts on Royal Park
- minimises and mitigates noise impacts on Royal Park and adjoining residential areas
- uses graffiti-preventative surface treatments on structures
- supports the CoM/DTP safety upgrade of the Royal Park Station/Tram/Poplar Road intersection
- retains heritage features of the Upfield railway line, including gates and gatekeeper's cabin

## 3.1 Site context

Add: Due to the age of the railway, there is a high chance of historically important indigenous plant species existing on the railway cutting of the Upfield railway line where services began in 1884. The cutting itself has important geological features.

## 6.1 Impacts on Royal Park

6.1.2 Trees, habitat and biodiversity in Royal Park

### Requirements

- **Retain and protect all trees within Royal Park from any construction activity that may impact their health and/or longevity and habitat value.**

## 6.2 Transport networks and parking

6.2.3 Reduce impacts from construction activity

### Requirements

- **During the closure of the Upfield shared use path, provide alternative safe cycling and walking connection for all ages, including primary school children.**

## 7. Integration of the Project into Royal Park and Surrounds

A key concern for City of Melbourne is the potential negative impacts of the elevated rail line (viaduct and embankment) on Royal Park. A poorly designed solution will overshadow significant areas of parkland, interrupt the open parkland vistas from within or to Royal Park and introduce undesirable noise and light impacts. The LXRP design must:

Add dot points:

- minimise light and noise emissions from the elevated rail line
- minimise potential vandalism and graffiti of the structures

## 7.1 Improve connectivity within Royal Park

The proposed rail-over-road solution for the removal of the level crossing at Park Street will provide a new opportunity to reduce fragmentation of Royal Park by providing a connection beneath the new viaduct between the Capital City Trail, Poplar Oval and Royal Park Tennis Club to

the three sports ovals and Ryder Pavilion to the west of the rail corridor. This must be designed as part of the Royal Park Master Plan review.

**Requirement**

- ***The project must allow for the construction of a new grade-separated crossing of the railway line east of Royal Park Station to improve connection between Royal Park North and Royal Park South in keeping with the Royal Master Plan review process.***

## 7.2 Streets and paths

The project must upgrade any shared paths that it impacts to encourage and support increased active transport by providing:

Add dot point:

- where separate cycle and walk paths are not feasible, shared paths must prioritise pedestrian safety.

**Requirements**

Add dot point:

- ***Prioritise pedestrian safety on shared paths.***

## 7.3 Urban Design Guidelines

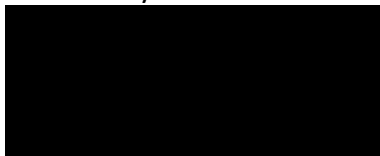
Add point:

Noise minimisation and mitigation for the Park and surrounding residential areas.

**Requirements**

- ***The project adopts strong and clear Urban Design Guidelines and continues to work with residents, community groups, business and Councils to integrate this guidance into the final design.***
- 

Sincerely



Kaye Oddie  
Secretary  
Friends of Royal Park, Parkville Inc



**Privacy acknowledgement:** I have read and acknowledge how Council will use and disclose my personal information.

\*

**Name: \*** Chris Thrum

**Email address: \***

[REDACTED]

**Phone number \***

[REDACTED]

**Date of meeting: \*** Tuesday 16 May 2023

**Agenda item title:** 7.1 Post travel report – Councillor Dr Olivia Ball, Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit, London

\*

**Please write your submission in the space provided below and submit by no later than 10am on the day of the scheduled meeting. Submissions will not be accepted after 10am.**

Dear City of Melbourne,

This is a written response in regards to the Future Melbourne Committee meeting of the 16th May, 2023 and in particular Agenda Item 7.1 Post Travel Report – Councillor Dr Olivia Ball, Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit, London.

The Partnership for Healthy Cities (PHC) Summit 2023 edition occurred in London. The PHC was attended by leaders from more than 70 countries from around the world. This important summit was co-hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the World Health Organisation and the Mayor of London.

PHC covered Dr Balls airfare and accommodation.

That's worth repeating.

PHC covered Dr Balls airfare and accommodation.

The remaining incidental costs of the trip to London were minimal and handled by the City of Melbourne.

Thank you to Dr Olivia Ball for taking the time to travel to London and attend the PHC 2023 Summit. Melbourne is a brighter and better city with the knowledge that Dr Ball has brought back from London in regards to the health of the citizens.

Something we can appreciate much more in 2023 than we could in 2018.

Melbourne is an international city and it is appropriate for Councillors to travel overseas and attend vital summits, conferences and meetings.

Best regards,

Chris Thrum

**Please indicate**      Yes  
**whether you**  
**would like to**  
**verbally address**  
**the Future**  
**Melbourne in**  
**support of your**  
**submission: \***

**If yes, please**      I wish to make my submission in person  
**indicate if you**  
**would like to**  
**make your**  
**submission in**  
**person, or via a**  
**virtual link (Zoom)**  
**to the meeting.**  
**Please note,**  
**physical**  
**attendance will be**  
**limited in**  
**accordance with**  
**City of Melbourne**  
**security protocols**  
**and COVID-safe**  
**plans and be**  
**allocated on a first**  
**registered, first**  
**served basis. \***