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Submission

City of Melbourne Annual Plan and Budget 20/21
Special Meeting - 29 June 2020

Southbank Residents Association is disappointed that once again City Road upgrade is missing from the budget.

For the fourth year we are making a budget submission on this item. The masterplan was released with the timeline indicating this should currently be in an advanced stage, but more importantly budgeted for. At the time the masterplan was written, the forward financial planning was known. It was about the same time the 10 year financial plan was released.

Two years ago we successfully obtained the following resolutions:

1.4.1. in light of the budgeted \$33.257 million capital works expenditure in Southbank in 2018-19, update or replace the "Shape Your Southbank" online portal with detailed information regarding the progress of all Southbank major projects included therein, as well as the Southbank Arts Precinct, and ensure that this information is communicated electronically with Southbank residents, community groups and stakeholders, by the end of July 2018.

1.4.2. put forward to the 2019-20 Capital Works budget completion of all aspects of the City Road Masterplan design documentation that has not yet been implemented, noting Council's intention to begin major works on City Road Masterplan Action 1 ("Transform City Road West into a great central city street") in 2019-20.

Regarding resolution 1.4.1, while a 'Southbank Projects' page was created, the updating of this site with up-to-date information is rare. We have been asking for a more detailed timeline for City Road for the last 4 years after realising the supplied timeline was manifestly inaccurate. At present the information on the portal is sketchy with time details, let alone actual status. We are now several years behind schedule and nothing on this page is showing us when we should expect this project to be finished, let alone the bulk aspects started.

We thank the CEO, Justin Hanney, for his response to our City Road question in the recent budget Q&A. We have been told in past years the delay was owing to stretched resources from the overlapping projects of Southbank Boulevard and Boyd parks, despite this overlap being considered within the masterplan. However, your advice that the delay is with Vic



Roads is a new reason. Has the current delays always been because of Vic Roads or is this only recent, and how long should we expect that to take to resolve?

Regarding resolution 1.4.2, we still don't believe this has been completely actioned. It would appear this is occurring in a piecemeal fashion. Some further clarification on this would be most appreciated.

In light of the budget constraints owing to Covid-19 creating councils first deficit, Southbank Residents are not requesting any further consideration to this budget for this project. However, once again we request for clarification on the City Road upgrade timeline and how we should expect this project to be completed in the coming years. Clarification that we have asking for over the last three budgets.

We acknowledge there are many challenges for council over the coming year/s and we commend the officers for their efforts with formulating this budget as we appreciate how difficult it would have been with all the competing interests during this unprecedented time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Penna", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association