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Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

City of Melbourne, Melbourne Town Hall,
07 January 2023, 5.30pm – Meeting No.49
Agenda Item FMC 6.2: Planning Permit Application: TP-2022-408 2 Southbank Boulevard, Southbank

The Southbank Residents Association generally agrees with the recommendations from management but with a number of suggested changes to the Permit Conditions.

The suggested changes relate to i) Hours of curfew and ii) Lighting specifications.

i) Hours of curfew

The inclination of the Earth's axis of rotation as it revolves around the Sun has an impact on the planning approval process. Applications for new buildings include maps of shadows that would be cast at the winter solstice and the equinoxes. It would therefore seem appropriate that the changes in the time of sunrise throughout the year should also have an impact on the planning approval process.

For much of the year the proposed end of curfew, 6:00am, the sky is dark and residents are sleeping. The prospect of being disturbed by signage turning on at 6:00am is inconsiderate.

Recommendation: That the light curfew ends at sunrise.

Human civilisation has used night-time for many activities, one of the most valued has been stargazing. Viewing of the stars in cities has become increasingly difficult due to increased light pollution. It is important to humanity that a sense of the universe is ever-present through an awareness of the night sky. To assist, local government should be minimising light pollution and encouraging an environment where the night sky can be observed by providing a time after dark, say at 10:30pm, when lighting is reduced to a level required for safety.

Recommendation: Permit Condition 2 be amended to read: *The illumination of signs must be turned off between 10:30pm and sunrise daily.*

ii) Lighting specification

Pages 9 and 10 include the lighting specification under 'Illumination' as 6500K colour temperature. This is the highest specification for LED lighting and is given the name 'daylight' as it is equivalent to the intensity of light during the day. There are several lower levels of LED lighting such as 3000K and 4000K.



As an illuminated display that is to be viewed at night, it does not need a brightness equivalent to daylight to be seen. A lower rating would reduce the light output by 30 – 40% and still be clearly visible and more energy efficient.

Recommendation: That there is another Permit Condition: *The illumination has a maximum value of 3000K colour temperature*

It is worth noting that the Australian Standard AS/NZS 4282:2019 (Control of the Obtrusive Effects of Outdoor Lighting) says: *Local government plays an important role in controlling the obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting through the approvals process, and in resolving neighbourhood disputes involving residents who experience discomfort or annoyance from nearby outdoor lighting installations. Some local authorities have applied restrictions on the frequency of use and hours of operation, and on the levels of light spilled beyond the boundaries of the subject site.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Penna'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association