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City of Melbourne

Submission: Melbourne City Council Draft Annual Plan and Budget 2018-2019

Southbank Residents Association (SRA) is pleased with the detail of the Melbourne City Council Draft Annual Plan and Budget 2018-2019. We would like to commend the responsible officers for their report. Overall it is generally positive and shows a clear commitment to maintenance and improvements for the City of Melbourne (CoM).

Last year SRA mentioned it was comforting that there were no new borrowings, but we did question how long that could be sustained in light of the the need for residential amenity, particularly given the massive population growth of Southbank. SRA is delighted that population growth has been highlighted in this budget as a future challenge. Hopefully with this renewed focus SRA is hopeful this Council will be better positioned to manage this challenge.

Once again, SRA is elated to see a continued significant investment in public realm works in Southbank, notably Boyd Park, Southbank Boulevard and Dodds Street (\$25.4 million total).

Boyd Park remains a sensitive issue to SRA. We are pleased to see this project continues to be funded with \$2.7 million allocated to this much anticipated project. We remain anxious for its commencement in the coming months.

Once again, SRA is disappointed and confused to see that further works on the City Road upgrade project have not been budgeted for. According to the masterplan, the project was supposed to have commenced with design works in 2016/17 and construction commencing in 17/18. To date, no funding has been allocated for this project. Does Council have a serious commitment to City Road? How could the timeline in the masterplan be so wrong so soon after being adopted? Surely, at minimum, the less intensive, and cheaper, Alexandra Avenue component could have been adopted in the 18/19 budget considering the Swan Street bridge upgrade is months away from completion. The City Road Upgrade would have a significant positive impact on Southbank and we would like to see it make progress or receive advice if the project has been set aside. It is disheartening to see these delays, budget after budget, with no stakeholder communication from Council as to the reason why and what the new plan might be. This project won numerous awards, why would it so suddenly fall behind schedule?

Last year, In good faith, SRA accepted the response from Management to our budget submission regarding City Road upgrade. We were advised *'In relation to City Road, the design documentation will start for the City Road Master Plan in 2017-2018 with a focus on designing three new signalled pedestrian crossings at Alexandra Avenue, Balston Street and Clarke Street. Detailed design work will also progress for the Kings Way under croft. The completion of design*

work will enable Council to plan subsequent construction. While we were informed this was going to happen, and we believe it has happened, then surely we can be commencing with construction in 2018-19.

SRA would like to request an official action for the 2018-19 budget being to complete design documentation for significant City Road upgrades and capital works expenditure in 2019-20 budget and to allocate the estimated \$500,000 for the Alexandra Avenue component now that the Swan Street bridge upgrade is complete.

We thank Council for the opportunity to make a submission on this important report.

Regards

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