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Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

Draft budget 2023-24 and Draft Annual Plan 2023-24

Our committee has reviewed the City of Melbourne Draft Budget 2023-24 and the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24 and would like to make the following submission.

City Road Masterplan

The lack of progress on the City Road Masterplan continues to disappoint. CoM will remember that the City Road Masterplan was a 7-year plan and implementation was supposed to commence in 2016. It's now 2023, and instead of nearing completion, we have barely started. Why has it taken so long and why are we only now talking about committing to a City Road Delivery Plan in the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24?

SRA certainly welcomes the development of a City Road Delivery Plan, and the intention to use it to progress advocacy with the Victorian Government. We ask that there be no further delays in the process, as upgrades to City Road East and West are long overdue.

It is promising to see a commitment in the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24 for the City Road Northern Undercroft component. However, given \$3.5M is allocated in the budget for City Road Masterplan when only a delivery plan will be produced, we are left to assume the remainder of the funds will be earmarked for the Northern Undercroft works. We welcome any consultation on this project.

Boyd Redevelopment Project

SRA acknowledges the allocation of \$270,000 for community engagement, design and consultancy on the Boyd Redevelopment Project. SRA has a long history with Boyd advocacy and look forward to learning more about the project and is available for consultation if required.

Transform Southbank Boulevard

SRA supports the allocation of \$250,000 for Transform Southbank Boulevard Stage 6 Initiation, however the meaning isn't clear. What does 'initiation' mean? What outcomes can we expect here?

SRA would also like to request further information on the Miles and Dodds Street pocket park proposal, but welcomes any new open space opportunities.



Southbank Promenade

SRA acknowledges the allocation of \$250,000 for Southbank Promenade Stage 2 Planning, in the hope the project stays on track.

Moomba Festival Parade Assets

Moomba is not held in Southbank, so SRA was surprised to see \$300,000 allocated for the purchase of new Moomba festival parade assets; a further \$100,000 to renew existing assets; and finally an additional \$200,000 for parade float maintenance. We don't argue the amounts befit their purpose, however we believe it's a stretch to consider these capital works are an investment in Southbank.

Burnley Tunnel Decking

SRA was overjoyed to see the plan in the Draft Annual Plan 2023-24 to prepare a statement of costings and challenges associated with the concept of decking over CityLink (Burnley Tunnel) to provide new open space in Southbank. SRA has been lobbying for this project for the last 10 years, and would like to know why this is only happening now with our critical public open space challenges, some 13 years after the Southbank Structure Plan 2010.

SRA and the residents of Southbank look forward to the costing phase of the proposed decking project and our committee are volunteering to participate in early consultation to assist in identifying associated challenges and opportunities.

Public Open Space

SRA supports plans by City of Melbourne to deliver 1.1ha of new public open space in Southbank and increase the proportion of residents that reside within 300m of public open space. This would go a significant way to providing the much-needed open space in our heavily populated suburb.

We also support plans by City of Melbourne to 'continue to scan the market for new open space acquisition opportunities' and 'create additional open space in Southbank and urban renewal areas to address the open space needs of current and future populations'.

SRA noted the allocation of \$250,000 for Queensbridge Square initiation and planning and a further \$1.5M for a new forecourt at ACCA. Both locations are of significant importance to all who live, work and visit Southbank and SRA would like to make a case for open community consultation given the magnitude of the spaces being redeveloped.



Business Precinct Program

Finally, SRA was thrilled to see a commitment of up to \$120,000 in annual funding as part of the Business Precinct Program to the Yarra River Business Association Inc (YRBA) for business support and activation initiatives. SRA has an ongoing relationship with the YRBA, and understands the value of this commitment to these Southbank business owners. We commend this budget allocation.

In conclusion, it's great to finally see some movement on projects that have been long neglected in Southbank and we welcome the progress and will continue to lobby for the residents of Southbank.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony Penna", written over a horizontal line.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association